

Lenten Devotional Reflection
16 March 2020 (Lent Day 17)

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³ and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴ And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶ as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Message: Thoughts on sacrifice for sin

According to ancient Israelite law, all sins must be cleansed by blood. Without blood, there will be no forgiveness (Hebrews 9:22). God orders Moses to set up five offerings, including burnt offering, grain offering, peace offering, sin offering and guilt offering, so the Jews can worship the Lord through offerings. This is the offering that God wants, through blood sin debts are paid.

As sins separate us from God, the role of the high priest is to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. Jesus, the Son of God, did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest and was not placed by man. He experienced, knew and tasted all pains and difficulties and was called by God as king and priest forever. Jesus can give us the greatest sympathy, mercy and strength to lead us to God and be our ever-present help.

Let us pray that we may learn from Jesus to be obedient in sufferings and our reverent submission be heard. Amen.

Reflection

1. Today what kind of attitude and manner do you have in joining services? Is it a way to gain power of life? Or is it an effort to participate in offerings?
2. The difficulties we face today are why are we separated from God and cannot be near Him?
3. Where and in what way does God want us to be near Him?

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