

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

Feb 2014

## *Hebrews*

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

### **Lesson #6: Jesus Our High Priest**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Some people say that Christianity is negative – always talking about what will happen if a decision or action is *not* taken (i.e. hell). What are some of the *positive* aspects of a relationship with Jesus?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

##### **Read Hebrews 4:14- 5:10**

*Note: Once a year (the Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur) the high priest entered the holy of holies. The priest had to be blameless before he offered sacrifices for others by offering sacrifices for his own sins first. The rope tied to his leg was a reminder of just how serious God was about this holy area. If God struck the priest down, he could be dragged out without exposing others to God's wrath. Bells on his robe told others he was still moving.*

1. What “training” did Jesus receive to be empathetic to man? Heb 2: 10; 5:7-8; Lk 4:13; Matt 26:36-46
2. Jesus was tempted like us. Why does that make it easier to accept Christ's role as high priest?
3. Why is it important that He was tempted but remained sinless?
4. Do you think Jesus' divinity made temptation easier or harder? Was he hypersensitive to sin?
5. The Jews greatly respected the position and role of the high priest. Ps 110:4 Why is Jesus a better high priest than all the others?

*Note: 4:16 “with confidence to the throne of grace” This term means “freedom to boldly speak.” We have freedom, and therefore, boldness, to approach the very presence of God through Jesus Christ (Heb 10:19). This is similar to the symbol of the torn veil of Herod's Temple in Jerusalem on the day that Jesus died.<sup>1</sup>*

6. Why did God chose a man instead of an angel to be the high priest?
7. Where is Jesus fulfilling His high priest duties now? 4:14 Why is that significant?
8. Why would the Jews say that sacrifices are no longer being made? What do Christians say?
9. Do you see God's throne more as one of judgment or grace? Why?

#### **APPLICATION**

How does direct access to God affect your prayer life? Your Christian walk?

**Why does the writer refer to a “throne” (v. 16) at this point? The reference is to Ex. 25:17–22, the golden mercy seat. The ark of the covenant was a wooden chest covered with gold. On top of the ark, Moses put a golden “mercy seat” with a cherub at each end. This mercy seat was God's throne, where He sat in glory and ruled the nation of Israel. But the OT mercy seat was not a throne of grace, since the nation was under a yoke of legal bondage. “The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). Christ is our Mercy Seat (“propitiation” in 1 John 2:2). When we come to Him, we come to a throne of grace, not a throne of judgment; and He meets us, talks to us, and strengthens us.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Utley, R. J. (1999). *Vol. Volume 10: The Superiority of the New Covenant: Hebrews*. Study Guide Commentary Series (50). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W.: *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1997, c1992, S. 687