

Discussion Questions for Hebrews 5 (Part 1) :1-10

Intro: We ran into the idea of Jesus as high priest in 4:14–16. In one way or another, chapters 5 through 10 all deal with Jesus' high priesthood—it is one of the central concepts the author wants to get across. Any Hebrew knew what a high priest was, but it was ingrained in him that only a descendant of Aaron could be one. Read 5:1–10

- What two primary duties are expected of every high priest (see 5:1)?
- Since human high priests are “subject to weakness” (5:2), what effect should this have on their attitude toward others?
- As a high priest, Jesus was not “subject to weakness” like the descendants of Aaron. How, then, could He “deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray” (see 2:17–18; 4:15)?
- Does Jesus have “to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people” (5:3)? Why or why not (see 4:15; 7:27)?
- Why do you think high priests must be called by God (see 5:4)?
- In Hebrews 5:5–6, the author quotes Psalm 2:7 and Psalm 110:4. In these passages, the Father appoints Jesus not merely to a temporary, human high priesthood. What titles does the Father give Jesus?
 - Psalm 2:6 _____
 - Psalm 2:7 _____
 - Psalm 110:4 _____
- Read Genesis 14:18, and observe what two offices Melchizedek held. How is he an appropriate type (foreshadow, prefigurement) of Christ?
- Jesus prayed with tears to the One who could save Him out of death, and He “was heard” (5:7). In what sense did the Father answer Jesus' Gethsemane prayer (see Matthew 26:39) “no,” and in what sense did He answer “yes”?

no (Matthew 27:45–50)

yes (Matthew 28:1–7)
- Though Jesus was the eternal Son of God, He nevertheless “learned obedience from what he suffered” (5:8). This does not imply that before His suffering He was tainted by the sin of disobedience. Yet how did suffering unto death teach Jesus to know obedience in a way He couldn't have otherwise?
- Why was obedience amid suffering part of Jesus' qualification course for becoming our high priest (recall 4:15; 5:2)?
- How should we view suffering in our lives?
- What aspect of 5:1–10 seems most personally relevant to you?