

Week 11: FORMED Series

Learning Obedience Through Trust

Hebrews 5:1-10

¹ Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³ This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. ⁴ And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father."

⁶ And he says in another place,

"You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek."

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Scholarly Insight:

Cockerill provides these comments on the text:¹

"The brief description of Christ's high priesthood in 4:14–16 has given the hearers a taste of what is to come and thus made them hungry to know more about the benefits that priesthood provides. However, it has also raised questions in their minds. If the Son of God is the kind of High Priest intimated in these verses, how does he relate to the God-established Aaronic priesthood? Furthermore, what biblical authority does the pastor have for Christ's priesthood in light of the perpetual character attributed to that earlier priesthood instituted by Moses at God's direction? Thus it is no surprise that the pastor begins his extended discussion of Christ's high priesthood by comparing and contrasting this new High Priest with the old."

Guthrie Helpfully Outlines:²

When the author says that Christ "learned obedience" and was "made perfect," he is not suggesting that the Son had been disobedient and flawed (cf. 4:15). Rather, Jesus' call involved walking obediently all the way to the end of a path to which the Father had appointed him. That he "learned obedience" means that the Son arrived "at a new stage of experience," having passed through the school of suffering. Perfection refers to the Son's having "graduated" from

¹ Gareth Lee Cockerill, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, (Eerdmans, 2012), pg 228.

² George Guthrie, *Hebrews*, (Zondervan Academic, 2009), pg 174.

that school, accomplishing the mission and making it to the end of that path of passion. Hebrews 5:9–10 proclaims the happy result of the Son's reaching this perfection: He became "the source of eternal salvation." The affirmation links the perfection process closely to the cross, where our great high priest offered up himself as the sacrifice for sin. For the author of Hebrews it is the blood of Christ shed in his suffering death that opens the door to salvation.

This week's sermon:

Rod unpacked the passage, outlining these truths:

1. Jesus is the perfect high priest.
2. Jesus trusted the father completely.
3. Trust produces obedience.

For us today: *"True obedience grows out of trusting our Heavenly Father, not trying to earn His approval."*

For Reflection:

1. As you reflect on the sermon and the notes above, what stands out to you? What did the Holy Spirit prompt within you?
2. How do you approach reading passages of scripture that are heavily saturated with Old Testament/Old covenant themes and examples? How does this passage help us understand Jesus?
3. The passage depicts Jesus as obedient son. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be like him... is there an area where God is inviting you to trust Him today? Is there a place in your own life right now where obedience is or would cost you something?
4. Some helpful questions for each of us to return to:
 - Am I living from the security of being God's child... or am I still trying to earn His approval?
 - Where is Jesus inviting me to trust Him today?
 - What step of obedience is He asking me to take?
 - Could God be using this difficult season to deepen my trust?
5. Practical challenge from Rod:
 - This week, before making one significant decision each day, I want you to pause and ask, "Jesus, what would trusting the Father look like here?" Not "What do I have to do?" but "What would trusting You look like as I make this decision?"

Formation Practice:

As we exploring being Formed by Jesus this series; we want to encourage you to do this simple exercise every day for the next 2 months. It can take 5 minutes or more, whatever

you are able to achieve (and as you do it more and more, you'll likely find it easier to spend longer listening and reflecting).

"Draw Near Daily" Rhythm (5–10 minutes)

- ***Come:*** *Quiet yourself before God.*
- ***Confess:*** *Be honest about sin/struggle.*
- ***Receive:*** *Remember what Christ has done.*
- ***Respond:*** *Take one step of obedience.*

Pray for each other:

Jesus, you walked the road of obedience even when it cost you greatly, and you never turned back. Thank you that you understand exactly what we're going through, because you've been there too. Thank you for being our perfect high priest. Help us to stop looking for comfort and ease, but to trust you. Holy Spirit show us the one step you're inviting us to take this week, and give us the courage to actually take it. Amen.