

Study of Our High Priest : Lesson #1 Handout

What does our High Priest do for Us

In this lesson we are studying the things that Jesus Christ does for us as our great High Priest. Also we will look at why the Lord Jesus is a merciful and faithful High Priest. Some of the things that Jesus Christ does for us as our High Priest deal with Salvation and there are some things are done for us after Salvation. Therefore understanding these things gives us a greater appreciation for the Lord Jesus Christ and a greater understanding of his word.

We see in **Hebrews 3:1** and **Hebrews 4:14** very plainly that the Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest. Also in **Hebrews 9:11-15** we see that he fulfilled the day of Atonement that was done so many times before in the Old Testament and by doing so he obtained eternal redemption for us. Therefore we have a High Priest in heaven that will never die nor need replacing and is capable of saving our souls eternally and keeping us saved until the day of redemption. With this in mind let us look at some of the things he does as a High Priest.

He is a Mediator : (1 Timothy 2:5)

A mediator is one who interposes between two parties that are at odds with one another for the purpose of reconciliation. Some might say that this is a middle man. Before a person is saved that are at odds with God and they need someone to mediate on their behalf. According to **1 Timothy 2:5** the Lord Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. Therefore the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to get to God. So it is plain to see that you cannot get to God without going through the mediator which is the Lord Jesus Christ. This is exactly what the word of God says in **John 14:6**.

So in the process of Salvation when a person comes to God for salvation they are coming based on the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and he is their mediator because of what he did for them on calvary. And as a result of his mediation they are reconciled to God. (**2 Corinthians 5:18**)

He is an Intercessor : (Hebrews 7:25)

An intercessor is defined one way as a mediator who intercedes for another. In many ways an intercessor and a mediator can be the same thing. But when we look at what the Lord Jesus Christ does as our High Priest we can use them differently. The word of God says that he is the only mediator between God and man. Therefore even people who refuse to get saved still have a mediator they just choose not to use him. But when we do chose to use the Lord Jesus Christ as our mediator he intercedes on our behalf and we are saved through him.

Look closely at the **Hebrews 7:25**. First it says that a person must come to God by him, that is the mediator then it says that he ever liveth to make intercession for them, that is the intercessor. Do you realize that Jesus Christ rose from the dead for you so that you could be saved? His whole purpose right now as a High Priest is to be an intercessor for us. He for us but the real question is do you live for him. We spend so much time and energy just focused on this world and our flesh when we should be focused on the Lord Jesus Christ and trying to live for him.

He is an Advocate : (1 John 2:1)

An advocate is one who pleads the cause of another. A good example would be a lawyer. It is true that in the case of salvation that the Lord Jesus Christ pleads our case and really we have no case but he tells God about what he did for us and God accepts that on our behalf. But even after we are saved we still need an advocate because of our sin. That is what 1 John is talking about. God still forgives us of sin after salvation because of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we think of a lawyer we think of someone who is accusing us which is why we need someone representing us. And in the case of our sin we have one that accuses us before God, it is the devil himself (**Revelation 12:10**). We must remember that even though we can be forgiven for sins after salvation based on the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, when we sin we bring shame and reproach to the name of Christ and God. Therefore Satan has an opportunity to bring and accusation against us. Satan probably says to God something like, “look at that child of yours he sure is sinning or making a mess of things”. It is a sad thing that as a child of God we give Satan a chance to point his finger at God and make an accusation against us. But when he does you can bet our High Priest, Jesus Christ says it’s ok their mine and they are under the blood. AMEN!!!

What makes it possible for Jesus Christ to be a faithful and merciful High Priest :

In **Hebrews 2:17-18** we see three reasons for why this is possible. We will list them as follows:

- 1) Because he was made like us.
 - When Jesus came to this earth he took on a flesh and blood body just like we have although his was sinless unlike ours. But as a man he experienced everything that we experience like thirst, hunger, laughter, sorrow, tears, persecution, family life, betrayal etc.
- 2) Because he makes reconciliation for the sins of the people.
 - A faithful high priest in the Old Testament made reconciliation for the people and when the Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth he was faithful unto death and arose victorious and ever liveth to make intercession for us.
- 3) Because he has suffered being tempted.
 - This goes along with what is said in **Hebrews 4:14-16**. The Lord Jesus Christ was tempted in all points just like us and yet he never sinned. But because he endured temptation and overcame it give him the right to be the perfect sacrifice for sins and therefore be our High Priest. And it also helps him to succor us when we are tempted because he has been in our place and walked in our shoes.
 - All sin no matter what it is can be put into 3 categories, Lust of the eyes, Lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (**1 John 2:16**). Jesus was tempted in all 3 of these categories in Matthew 4 and Luke 4. This is how he was tempted in all points just like us.
 - So whether you need mercy because of sin or just grace to help in time of need, as a faithful High Priest Jesus Christ understands perfectly and is there to help. All we have to do is just go to the throne and get help. It is great to have him for a High Priest!!!

