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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Jesus Intercedes for Us Heb 4:14 - 5:10

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines and explains how and why **Jesus Intercedes for Us**. The **study's aim** is to understand Jesus' nature and role as our High Priest and to discover that Jesus is a compassionate intercessor. The **study's application** is to bring our requests to God with a greater awareness of Jesus as our High Priest and intercessor.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

There have been many times in my ministry when a visitor to my church asked to see a priest. On one occasion, a young man met me after the Sunday service and said, "Father, I need to confess." I quickly realized that he was coming from a Roman Catholic background, and he wanted someone to hear his confession as a Catholic priest might do. I told him that I was not a priest, but that I would be glad to talk and pray with him. We did just that in my office. His problem was that he was getting married that week, but he still had strong feelings of attraction for a woman other than his fiancée. In his own way, he was suffering in his attempt to be righteous. Rugged individualism is not the Christian way when it comes to spiritual matters. We all need someone to listen to us and to pray for us. This is partly why a specialized category of priests is valued in some branches of Christianity. But in the New Testament era we do not need this kind of priest to make intercession. We are all priests (1 Peter 2:9), and we all can pray for each other, something Paul asked his readers to do for him (see Ephesians 6:19). Even so, we ultimately and always rely on Jesus, our faithful and eternal high priest, to intercede for us at the very throne of God.

Outside the book of Hebrews, the man Melchizedek is mentioned by name in only two places in the Bible: Genesis 14:18 and Psalm 110:4. Genesis 14 notes this man's encounter with Abram (Abraham) after the latter had won a small military victory. As Abraham and his men returned home, they were met by "Melchizedek king of Salem," who brought them bread and wine, plus a blessing for Abraham. In turn, Abraham gave that king a tenth of the spoils of the battle. Melchizedek was more than a king, however, for Genesis 14:18 refers to him as a "priest of God Most High." This is the first time in the Bible the term priest is used. Here was a priest who had nothing to do with Aaron or the tribe of Levi (from which all Israelite priests descended), for he predated both by hundreds of years! Regarding Psalm 110, Jesus identified himself as one of the two Lords in the opening line "The Lord says to my Lord" (see Matthew 22:41-45), and Psalm 110:1b-3 goes on to describe his kingly authority. Then Psalm 110:4 declares "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.'" Leadership in ancient Israel was typically understood to be vested in the three offices of prophet, priest, and king. Usually those were distinct functions that did not overlap (compare 2 Chronicles 19:11; 26:16-20). But there were exceptions. Ezekiel was both a prophet and a priest (Ezekiel 1:3). King David performed the functions of a priest on one occasion (2 Samuel 6:16-18), as did King Solomon (1 Kings 8:62-64). Jesus ended up being the ultimate exception, as we shall see. The author of Hebrews (whose identity is not conclusively known) is a master of the Old Testament, knowing well all the data on Melchizedek. The author presents the data with regard to Jesus using a technique called typology as he draws on patterns from the Old Testament to understand the events and people of the New Testament.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Satan is powerless against the power of Christ's prayer

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead
for me, Lest, by base denial, I
depart from Thee; When Thou
seest me waver, with a look recall;
Nor for fear or favor suffer me to
fall. —Montgomery

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
(Heb 7:25 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Apr 17, 2005)

Series: ACTS OF WORSHIP

UNIT: Learning to Pray

NEXT WEEK

WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER
(James 5:13-18)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

A SYMPATHETIC INTERCESSOR (HEB 4:14-5:3)

A intercessor who deserves our confidence (14)

Deserves our confidence because He is faithful
(Heb 3:6)

Deserves our confidence because we are partakers
in Him (Heb 3:14)

Deserves our confidence because Jesus is faithful
(Heb 10:23)

Deserves our confidence because He has armor that
will help me stand against Satan (Eph 6:10-13)

A intercessor who understands us (15-16)

Understands because He was tempted (Luke 4:2)

Understands because He was made like us (Heb
2:17-18)

Understands because we are His sheep (John
10:14-15)

Understands because He knows His own (2 Tim
2:19)

Understands because of love (1 Cor 8:3)

Understands because He humbled Himself and was
obedient (Phil 2:6-8)

A intercessor who is qualified (5:1-3)

Qualified because He was appointed

Appointed as Christ (Acts 3:19-20)

Appointed as judge (Acts 10:42)

Appointed as head of everything for the Church
(Eph 1:22)

Appointed as heir of all things (Heb 1:2)

Appointed because of His faithfulness (Heb 3:1-
2)

Appointed by the oath of God (Heb 7:28)

Qualified because He offered Himself as the
ultimate sacrifice

Offered Himself because of the love of God
(John 3:16)

Offered Himself as a sacrifice of atonement
(Rom 3:25)

Offered Himself once for all (Heb 9:26)

Offered Himself to make us holy (Heb 10:10)

Offered Himself for the sins of the whole world
(1 John 2:2)

A SPECIALLY ANOINTED INTERCESSOR (HEB 5:4-6)

The need for an anointed calling (4)

A calling because the Law required it (Num 18:5-7)

A calling that God provided to Jesus (John 8:54)

A calling to be like Melchizedek (Heb 7:14-16)

A calling that came from heaven (John 3:27)

The evidence of Jesus' anointed calling (5-6)

Evidenced by being God's Son

As acknowledged by God (Matt 3:16-17)

As proclaimed in the Psalms (Ps 2:7)

As proclaimed in the gospel (Acts 13:32-33)

A Son send by God (Rom 8:3)

A Son superior to angels (Heb 1:3-5)

A Son, who if acknowledged, brings the
indwelling Holy Spirit (1 John 4:15)

A Son who provides the overcoming of the world
(1 John 5:5)

As acknowledged by Peter (Matt 16:16)

Evidenced by being a priest in the order of
Melchizedek

A priest of God Most High (Gen 14:18-20)

A priest forever (Ps 110:4)

A priest designated by God (Heb 5:10)

A priest who enters on our behalf (Heb 6:20)

A SACRIFICING INTERCESSOR (HEB 5:7-10)

Sacrificial suffering (7-8)

Suffering prophesied in Scripture (Luke 24:45-46)

Suffering foretold by the prophets (Acts 3:18)

Suffering by the author of our faith (Heb 12:2)

Suffering that make Jesus perfect (Heb 2:10)

Suffering that was predicted (1 Peter 1:10-11)

Suffering that Jesus gave as an example for us (1
Peter 2:20-21)

Suffering in His body (1 Peter 4:1)

Sacrificial saving work (9-10)

A salvation that God appointed through Jesus (1
Thess 5:9)

A salvation Jesus will bring with Him at His second
coming (Heb 9:28)

A salvation through justification by Jesus' blood
(Rom 5:9)

A salvation that is gained through belief in Jesus
(John 6:40)

A salvation that bring eternal life (John 11:25)

A salvation that is hidden in Jesus (Col 3:3-4)