

Hebrews 5:1-10

Image: What is your motivation in life? There was a company not too long ago called No Fear. They basically came out with t-shirts with weird slogans on them. One of them said, "He who dies with the most toys wins." Advertising agencies spend around \$100 billion a year in the US (more than rest of the world combined (although Ireland is not far off)) to convince you that you need to buy their product in order to please people certain people. That this should be your motivation. Consider Ireland. David McWilliams in his book, "The Pope's Children" said the following: "But instead of winding down and luxuriating in our new found wealth, we are accelerating as never before. We have to be there first, have the best, the brightest, the newest and the biggest. We must also be the ones who are most fun, loudest, best craic and most off our head. We are borrowing, spending, shopping, eating, drinking and taking more drugs than any other nation. we are Europe's hedonists and the most decadent Irish generation ever...We are the full-on nation." The worldview today in Ireland has become pursue and conquer. The accumulation of stuff has become the motivating factor for many. The problem with this temptation is that it takes our attention off of God as the proper motivation for us. His glory. And what it does, if we're not careful, is to make God subject to our will, rather than the other way around. If you've chosen an authority...a motivation other than God, you better make sure it can stand up in His presence. Don't put God on the backburner unless you're sure that you can get more heat from something else. And that's what our culture has done. We have left our allegiance to God because we have become motivated by what is seen. And we're, even as believers, tempted with that. *CS Lewis God in the dock quote (NIVAC p. 196).*

Context: This text sets the foundation for this main section of the book. Jesus is best HP. Intro in *NIVAC* on previous section that details what Jesus is better than. This text is all about authority. Who has the authority to determine how we get to God? God does. And we have to submit our lives to Him. He is to be our authority and motivation in life.

- I. **God has the authority to make the rules. INDUCTIVELY AT B**
 - A. 3 Prerequisites for priesthood (v. 1-4)
 1. Human in order to represent humans before God (v. 1-2). **Exodus 28:1** (Aaron brought out from among the people); **Day of Atonement in Lev. 16:1-25** (particularly v. 11 on the HP's own weakness and sacrifice). He also is "subject to weakness". **Surrounded by...**
 2. Subject to weakness so he might have compassion (2-3).
 - a. Forbearance – able to "deal gently" with those "who go astray in ignorance". Those who wander off the moral path. No sacrifice for sin with high hand (**Num. 15:29-30** – Those who sin defiantly are cut off from His presence, sent out of the camp).
 - b. Forbearance and compassion is not indifference to sin or harsh dealing with weakness. It's middle of the road. He can do this because of his own weakness. **more in ch. 7:26-28**. Contrast this fact about the old priest with the new priest's perfection.
 3. God appoints priests (**Ex. 28:1; Lev. 8:1 (these 2, calling of Aaron); Num. 16:5 (Korah)**)
 - B. **God has the authority to make the rules.**
 1. We don't have earthly HP today. Times have changed. We don't sacrifice bulls and goats, but God still regulates who can enter His presence. He has authority to make the rules.
 2. In this new covenant era, God hasn't ordained any earthly mediator. **1 Peter 2 WE ARE A "kingdom of priests"** We have access to God ourselves (like last week)

(So what is the vehicle by which we enter His presence today?)

- II. So what He's done is to make Jesus the way to Him. But what of Jesus' qualifications?
 - A. Any mediator has to be able to identify with humanity as well as be distinct from it (v. 5-6)
 1. Jesus was appointed by God to be set apart as HP and mediator.
 - a. He didn't take it upon Himself (v. 5a). "Did not take glory to Himself."
 - b. God glorified Him and appointed Him
 - i. **Psalm 2:7 (Hb. 1:5)** – The Son (implies from ch. 1, Deity, Creator, etc.) is the HP
 - ii. **Psalm 110:4 (110:1 in Hb. 1:13)** – This same Son is also a priest forever of the same type as Melchizedek. M was a king priest, not like Aaron.

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01. M, who is he? Gen. 14, King of Jerusalem, King of righteousness (name). King of peace. More to come in chapter 7.
 02. Why is it significant that Jesus is a priest like him? eternal, king-priest. Davidic Kings from tribe of Judah. Priests from tribe of Levi. Jesus Judah.
2. He can be a mediator because, in His humanity, He can have compassion on us (v. 7-8)
 - a. His path to priesthood was not without difficulty (v. 7)
 - i. **Garden of Gethsemane** – terrible emotional suffering as Jesus wrestled with the implications of obedience...namely His suffering. Sweat drops like blood. Intense.
 - ii. God heard him and gave Him strength to endure in faithfulness.
 - b. We would expect a Son to have an easier time, wouldn't we? (v. 8)
 - i. **He learned obedience** – He learned obedience in a whole new dimension by obeying to the point of death. We learn obedience by disobeying and suffering consequences (*me as a kid*). He learned it by obeying in His sufferings. In fact, His sufferings were a result of His obedience. Again, this is the Heb's situation too. If they obey, they will suffer persecution.
 - ii. **He was made perfect** – Not that he was imperfect morally. Rather, His mission was fully, completely, and totally fulfilled in His obedient death. It's made perfect in the sense of brought to completion. He is fully qualified to be our savior. cf **2:10**
- B. And so, based on this obedience, by God's authority, He has replaced every other mediator as the only way to God (v. 9-10).
1. He is the eternal source of salvation (v. 9) (**Acts 4:12 (no other name); John 14:6**). There is salvation...eternal access to God in His presence...in no one else. This is appropriate here given the context. They were tempted to retreat back to Judaism. But the author is going to argue that there is a new priest in town...under God's authority. And that He is better than anything that went before. If you want entrance into God's presence...eternal salvation...you have to come through Him.
 2. By His obedience He has become God's appointed forever priest (v. 10). New HP, new era.

(So what is our motivation in this life?)

III. Just like Jesus, let God drive your life.

- A. Appreciate God's authority in your life.
 1. This text drips with authority. The thematic center of it structurally is v. 4-6 in which the author skillfully articulates that there was an old priest by the authority of God, but now there is a new priest, also by the authority of God. God has the authority in this universe to do what He will. And we run into trouble when we try to buck against it. Immortal prophet Johnny Cash...kicking against the pricks (KJV – Acts 9).
 2. We don't answer to advertisers, or our friends. We answer to God.
- B. So, like Jesus, you submit your life to Him in obedience.
 1. You do it, first, by taking Jesus as the mediator between God and man. Trust in Him alone. It's popular today to say that I trust in Jesus and my own works. Sorry. Your works are worthless. You trust Jesus alone as the One who can save you. You need no other. Incidentally, you don't need anyone to bring you to Jesus. Just go to Him in faith.
 2. In your everyday life you surrender to His authority.
 - a. To **"obey"** is to "submit the will, understanding, conduct, allegiance to the will of another." In every case the term is used except one in **Acts 12:13**. You surrender...pull over and let Him drive your life.
 - b. This is the example of Jesus. He obeyed even though it meant He suffered.

Struggle of wills in parenting Emma. We're teaching her to submit and obey our will and authority. Same with us and God. We're called to unconditional surrender of our lives to Him. We have no other motivation but to obey because we have no other authority. Christian t-shirt: "he who dies with the most toys, still dies." Remember Jesus and follow God in obedience.