

Better Priesthood

Hebrews 7:1–28

Have you ever gotten special access, a better seat, an unexpected opportunity, or help with something simple because you knew the right person? What happened?

We all know what it's like to need someone who can open a door for us. **Hebrews 7 reminds us that Jesus has opened the most important door of all: access to God.**

Read Hebrews 7:1–19. Melchizedek was both a king and a priest, pointing forward to Jesus, our perfect King and Priest.

1. Why is it important that Jesus has both the authority to rule over us and the compassion to represent us before God?
2. What people, accomplishments, or religious activities are we sometimes tempted to trust for the acceptance and security that only Jesus can provide?

Read Hebrews 7:18–19. Verse 19 says that through Jesus we can "draw near to God."

1. What does drawing near to God look like in the middle of an ordinary week?
2. What tends to keep you from drawing near to God: busyness, guilt, disappointment, distractions, or something else?
3. How does it change your response knowing Jesus has already opened the way?

Read Hebrews 7:20–22. Jesus is called the "guarantor of a better covenant." Our relationship with God rests on His promise, not on how spiritually strong we feel on a particular day.

1. How do our emotions sometimes shape what we believe about God's love, forgiveness, or acceptance?
2. When you feel distant from God, how can you remind yourself of what Jesus has promised rather than relying on your feelings?

Read Hebrews 7:23–25. Verse 25 says Jesus is able to "save to the uttermost" because He always lives to make intercession for us.

1. What encourages you most about knowing Jesus continues to represent and care for you before the Father?
2. Is there a burden, worry, or struggle you've been carrying on your own rather than bringing it to Jesus?

Read Hebrews 7:26–28. Unlike the Old Testament priests, Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice for our sins, once for all. Nothing needs to be added to what He accomplished on the cross. Jesus' sacrifice is complete.

1. Why do you think Christians sometimes struggle to accept God's forgiveness and feel they need to do more to make up for their failures?
2. What is the difference between obeying God to earn His love and obeying God because we have already received His love?

Read Hebrews 7:25–28. The sermon closed with this question: "If Jesus has made the way for you to draw near to God, what is keeping you from coming near today?"

1. How would your daily life look different if you consistently lived with the confidence that Jesus has fully forgiven you, welcomes you into God's presence, and never stops caring for you?
2. What is one area where God is inviting you to stop striving and start trusting Jesus?

I encourage you to practice three things:

1. **Come honestly.** Tell God what you're really thinking, feeling, or struggling with.
2. **Rest in His promises.** Read Hebrews 7:25 each day and remember that Jesus continues to intercede for you.
3. **Respond with obedience.** Identify one area where you can live out your faith in gratitude for what Jesus has done.

Prayer: Share one burden you need to bring to Jesus or one area where you need to trust His finished work more fully.

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