

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Jesus Like Melchizedek Hebrews 7:11–28

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Hebrews 7:11–19.

1. Like Melchizedek (last week's lesson), Jesus is an original priest, not descendent from the traditional priestly order.
 - A. Which tribe did the priests (including Aaron) descend from? (Exodus 6:16,19,20; Numbers 18:6)
 - B. Which tribe did Jesus descend from? (Hebrews 7:14; Matthew 1:1–3)
2. Why do you think the author is at pains to prove to Jewish Christians that it's not heresy to consider a high priest who is not from the 1,500 year old traditional line of Levi?
3. The commentators tell us that "perfection" in verse 11 has the sense (in the original Greek) of completing or fulfilling a goal.
 - A. Why was the Law/Levitical priesthood system inadequate for achieving God's goal of saving men? (Hebrews 10:4)
 - B. What was the limited goal or usefulness of the Law/Levitical priesthood during its 1,500 year enforcement? (Hebrews 10:3; Galatians 3:19,24)

Day 2: Read Hebrews 7:18–28; Romans 7.

4. Find a phrase in verse 18 that sums up the effectiveness of the old Levitical system in dealing with man's broken relationship with God.

5. Why is it that “the law made nothing perfect” (vs. 19)? (See also Galatians 3:21,22; Romans 7:14)

6. Looking at your answers to questions 4 and 5, how would you characterize your attempts to be righteous by your own set of values and morality?

7. What were the two big limitations of the priesthood of Aaron and the Levites? (vss. 23,27)

8. How does Jesus’ priesthood eliminate these two shortcomings? (vss. 16,24,26)

Day 3: Read Hebrews 7:11–28.

9. Why do you think God ordained that Jesus should not be merely the best in a line of Levitical priests, but should come from a whole other tribe?

10. Did the Mosaic covenant (agreement for approaching God by obeying the Law and performing the rituals) need just minor tinkering, or a radical replacement?

11. The priest Melchizedek, from whose order Jesus’ priesthood derives (7:11), lived before the Levitical priesthood, and can only be regarded as a Gentile. What hint does that fact give us, even at this early stage in history, about God’s salvation plan?

Day 4: Read Hebrews 7:23–28.

12. Psychologists speak of various human “needs,” but what is man’s most basic need? (vss. 25,26; Romans 3:22–24)

13. We talk about Jesus' life on earth; we talk about his death and resurrection. But what is Jesus doing now? (vss. 24,25)

14. In verse 25, the Greek behind the word "completely" (NIV version) also connotes "to the uttermost." What does it mean that Christ is able to save you "to the uttermost"? Are there any depths of sinfulness from which he cannot save you?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 7:24–26; John 17:6–26.

15. Reread Hebrews 7:24–26, then do nothing but read John 17:6–26, and rejoice at a peek into Jesus' present prayer life for you.