

Lecture 6 – Hebrews 3-4: Jesus our Faithful High Priest

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17

Key Terms

Perfection or consecration, Christ & Christian suffering, merciful & faithful, diatribe, fear of God, guilt, shame

Lecture Objectives

- Briefly outline the place of suffering in Christ’s life and its relationship to the Christian life
- Outline the important relationship between Christ’s mercy and our “fear of God”
- Explore implications of this for holy Christian life and ministry

Preliminary Questions

- Some Christians view suffering as something we are saved from and to be avoided. Others view suffering as something to which we are called. To what extent and in what ways are each of these right? To what extent and in what ways are each of these wrong? How would you more accurately state the case? What does your life reflect of your belief about suffering?

Hebrews 3-4: Jesus our Faithful High Priest

I. Review of Last Lecture

- A.
- B.
- C.

II. Three Meditations

A. Concept of perfecting (see 2:10)

- 1. Is Jesus made perfect or consecrated?
 - The lexical possibilities for the *τέλειος*, *teléō*
 - LXX usage of *teleiōō*: Exodus 29:4-9

What might “heroic suffering” look like in your context?

B. Hebrews Christology and the suffering of Christians

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

C. Jesus becomes our hero:

- 1. The loss of the heroic
 - a. Western cynicism and the possibility of true heroism
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - b. One dimensional heroes
- 2. The importance of heroism
 - a. Must recapture models of greatness
 - b. A concept of the Christian life as moral action and rule keeping
 - 1) _____

- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- c. Growth through heroic ideals
- 3. Heroism and the problem of shame
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. Solutions:
 - 1) Acceptance
 - 2) Forgiveness
 - 3) Excellence
- 4. Jesus our hero
 - a. He has a great life story
 - b. He had style, boldness
 - c. Heroism in Hebrews

Hebrews 2:17

I. Context (Beginning with 2:17)

A. Jesus: Merciful and faithful high priest

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

B. Application

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

II. The Big Picture: Outline of 3:1-5:10

A. Jesus a faithful high priest (3:1-4:13): becomes the outline for the rest of Hebrews.

- 1. Jesus is faithful like Moses, yet beyond him (3:1-6)
- 2. Israelites were unfaithful to Moses (3:7-19)
- 3. Yet, a promise of rest remains (4:1-11)
- 4. Warning: Nothing is hidden from God! (4:12-13)

B. Jesus is a merciful High Priest (4:13-5:10)

- 1. Merciful; making intercession (4:14-16)
- 2. High Priests are merciful so that they can deal gently with people and offer sacrifices (5:1-3)
- 3. Appointed high priest after the order of Melchizedek (5:4-10)

III. Jesus the Faithful High Priest (3:1-18 in more detail)

A. A Command: *katanoēsate* (“think deeply”)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

B. Jesus compared to Moses:

- 1. Faithful to one who appointed
- 2. Mediator of a covenant
- 3. Leads a generation
- 4. Received revelation in way that sets him apart from all others. (see Num. 12:6-8)
- 5. Both superior to angels

C. But Jesus is superior to Moses (3:1-6)

1. Moses was faithful in God's house; Jesus built God's house
 2. Moses was a servant in God's house; Jesus is son over God's house
 3. Moses testified to what God would do; Jesus is revelation of what God has done.
 4. We are God's house; what happened to Moses' house?
 5. Jesus was perfectly faithful; Moses?
- D. Jesus was faithful; will you be faithful? (3:7-18)
1. Psalm 95:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 2. The warning
 - a. Massah and Meribah
 - b. Numbers 13 - 14
 - c. Hardness of heart
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - d. Concern (3:12)
 - e. Remedy (3:13)
 - f. _____
 - g. Urgency (3:16-18)
 - 1) Six questions
 - 2)
 - 3)

How is this warning unsettling to us? Why?

- E. Let us fear, lest we fall short of the rest (4:1-13)
1. Formula: Promise + Faith
 2. Fear as motivation
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 3. Four forms of Sabbath rest
 - a. Creation
 - b. Weekly
 - c. Canaan
 - d. Eternal
 - e. Jesus offers rest
 4. Warning: God's Word penetrates (4:11-13)
 - a. Analysis
 - b. Exposition
 - 1) Living
 - 2) Two-edged
 - 3) Penetrating
 - 4)
 - 5)
 - 6)
 5. From warning to comfort (4:14-16)

a. Exposition

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

b. The pastoral method

Question/Answer

Diatribes—How are we motivated by fear if Christ has taken on all of God’s wrath? Good source where we could follow up on this issue? My dissertation, Richard Sibbs, William Perkins, and Calvin and the fear of God.