

Matchless part 16

Hebrews 7:11-28

Title Of The Message: “A Better Priesthood”

The Key Word: Perfection

The Thought: Change was needed, bringing in a better High Priest who is able to save us to the uttermost.

The Breakdown:

Verses 11-13 The Need For Change

Verses 14-16 The Reason For Change

Verses 17-24 The Better Priesthood

Verses 25-28 The Benefits Of Change

Verses 11-13 The Need For Change

Hebrews 7:11 NKJV - Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

Therefore... In our quest to grow into a mature relationship with Jesus, whenever we see the word therefore, we need to ask what is the therefore there for? Because in asking it should draw us back to what had been said before and what exactly was that? Paul was speaking of the greatness of the Melchizedek order of priesthood, explaining how he received tithe from Abraham before the law even existed, and that through Abraham that Levi even though they were given the law to

collect tithe had actually by way of Abraham given tithe to Melchizedek, this why therefore is there. So why is this important? Because it leads to the next statement that is revealing and would be surprising for the Jewish people.

If perfection were through the Levitical priesthood... Notice Paul ask the question, if the Levitical priesthood was perfect why was there a need for another priesthood? This all has to do with Melchizedek, again in Genesis we see Melchizedek pop up out of nowhere and then disappear into history until he is mentioned again centuries later by David in **Psalm 110:4** that says **The Lord has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”**

The Levitical priesthood was given the law by Moses who gave the law to the people and if they could draw people into a perfect relationship with God through the law why didn't God just say through David you are a priest forever according to the order of Aaron? The fact of the matter was that the priesthood could not bring people in to that perfection so that people could stand before the Lord, and so the priesthood would have to revert to an earlier priesthood a better priesthood.

Hebrews 7:12-13 NKJV - For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. **13 NKJV** - For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

For the priesthood being changed... Since there is a change in the priesthood there now has to be a change of the law, because Jesus belongs to another tribe, that is the tribe of Judah and they have nothing to do with the priesthood as it was given exclusively to Aaron and the Levites, if you remember after the exile to Babylon was over that there were some who claimed to be of the lineage of the priesthood but because they had no proof of their genealogy, they were kept from being

able to serve as priest until they could prove they came from the priestly line.

But here there is another priest after another line and so the law needed to be changed, because Jesus came from the tribe of Judah, and there's nothing in the law that allows for priest to come out of the tribe of Judah, but this where Psalm 110:4 comes in, because this prophecy in Psalms didn't pertain to the tribe of Levi but to a different tribe.

Verses 14-19 The Reason For Change

Hebrews 7:14 NKJV - For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

For it is evident that our Lord... Notice that the writer goes on to say that it is evident that Jesus came from the tribe of Judah, a tribe that Moses said nothing about having a priesthood, earlier in this book the writer clearly says that Jesus is our permanent and perfect High Priest, something that someone in the Jewish faith would immediately refute saying no your mistaken because He was of the tribe of Judah and the priesthood only belonged to the tribe of Levi. This what the Hebrew believers were dealing with and so the writer of Hebrews gives them the answer found in **Psalm 110:4**

Hebrews 7:15 NKJV - And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest

And it is yet far more evident... The reason it is far more evident is because of the prophecy found in Psalm 110:4 this actually shows the need for another priest of a different order that is the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:16 NKJV - who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.

Who has come, not according to the law... Notice that Jesus has not come or has been made a High Priest according to the law of fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life, the only way again that someone could be a priest according to the Mosaic law was by being a Levite this is what qualified them to be a priest, but that has proven to be a weak system, how so? Because they continued to die, there is no consistency because they kept dying! But what qualifies Jesus is the power of life, He is never weak, and never changing because he has the power of an endless life. He has been and will be consistent in His service for us, not like those who would make political moves, enrich themselves, acting out in the flesh only to die. How do we know this is true just read verse 17

Hebrews 7:17-19 NKJV - For He testifies: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." 18 NKJV - For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, 19 NKJV - for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

For He testifies: We can be assured of Jesus' permanent priesthood and consistency because God the Father, speaking to God the Son says "You are a priest forever" and what does forever mean? Just that forever! This I believe in itself is a great reason for the needed change. Notice though that there is another problem the former commandment needed to be annulled because of its weakness and unprofitableness, not only that but the law made nothing perfect! The Law can't make anyone perfect but Jesus can, by the law the priest could not complete the work of God in the heart of the believer, according to verse 19, For the law made nothing perfect, The animal sacrifices couldn't give the believer a perfect standing with the Lord, because the blood of animals could not wash away sin, the blood of animals can only cover sin but the blood of Christ washes us clean, according to Hebrews chapter 10, we should also remember that the Mosaic law was only meant to be temporary, so why

was it there? To be a teacher and to help pave the way for the new covenant that Jesus would make sealed by His blood.

Galatians 3:19-4:7 is your home work

1. Why was the Law given?
2. Can you be made righteous by keeping the law?
3. Does the law go against the promises of God?
4. What does the scripture do to everyone and why?
5. What happens to a person after they believe or have faith?
6. What promises does the believer have?

On the other hand... Although the law cannot draw us nearer to God, we can be of good courage because what the law has failed to do Christ has done, He has brought a better hope, when we fail in the law there is a curse, a condemnation because it is impossible to keep the law, but Jesus fulfilled the law and has given us grace to be able to live by faith in the love of Christ.

Verses 20-24 The Better Priesthood

Hebrews 7:20-22 NKJV - And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath 21 NKJV - (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The LORD has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek' “), 22 NKJV - by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

And inasmuch as He was not... Now notice we have the difference between His priesthood compared to the Levitical priesthood, Jesus' priesthood is based on an oath or a swearing in, like the president or

governor that must be sworn into office, so Jesus was sworn in by the Father, as He said The LORD has sworn and will not relent, you are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek, but for the Levitical priest the same cannot be said, their priesthood was based off the law not a personal oath made by the Father, so what's the difference? Plenty! First to be a priest all he had to do was be born of the right tribe, second he just needed to be a male, third he had to be without blemish or deformity, that meant that he couldn't be a dwarf, he couldn't be blind, he couldn't have a marred face, he couldn't even have eczema or scabs! According to **Leviticus 21:16-24**, Did you notice in all of this there was nothing mentioned about moral character, that's because not wasn't required to be a priest? Now with Jesus, His priesthood is established on the finished work of the cross and His character, what a difference.

By so much more Jesus... This being the case Jesus has become so much more of a surety of a better new covenant than the old covenant, that word "**Surety**" is interesting because literally it says that he has become a better "**Bail**," now for those of us who grew up in the neighborhood or have had to go to trial for an offense, remember that if you wanted to stay out of jail until the trial was over you had to make bail often times the price is way out of range so you had to see a bail bondsmen, who would put up the cash for you but you had to give collateral for it, like your house or your parents house, now my mom made sure she cured me of any of that, once we got old enough she said if you go out there messing around and get yourself arrested you better not call me cause I'm not picking you up and I'm not bailing you out! Now they do this so that this man would be able to get his money back if you jumped bail or started running. Jesus becomes that bail for us who are facing the charges of sin, He is that surety of a better covenant. We have a better deal in Christ and the new covenant He has made through His shed blood.

Hebrews 7:23-24 NKJV - Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 NKJV - But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

Also there were many priests... again another reason His priesthood is better than the old is because He continues forever and has an unchangeable priesthood, unlike the old where changes would happen every time new priest would have to come in because they died! They were unable to have a consistent priesthood. If you have ever had to deal with inspectors you know its always better to get the same one rather than different ones, because different inspectors sometimes just can't agree with each other but if you have the same inspector than you get the same consistency, Jesus brings in consistency where it wasn't before.

Verses 25-28 The Benefits Of Change

Hebrews 7:25 NKJV - 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.

Therefore He is also able... I love what the writer says here, that He, Jesus, is able to save to the uttermost in other words He is able to save us completely and forever, but the requirement is that you put your faith in Him, I remember a number of years ago there were to televangelist, I won't mention Benny Hinn's name, but he and others that were in agreement with him were saying that we are to put our faith in faith, overlooking the fact that our faith is as only as good as the thing or person you put your faith in, if we put our faith in Christ than He is able to save us completely and forever. The question is what does putting our faith in Christ mean? It means a complete surrender of self, to do whatever it takes to draw near to Jesus.

Philippians 3:7-11 (NKJV) 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may

know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Since He always lives... We might ask how can that be? Because of what the rest of the verse says, since He always lives to make intercession for them. In the book of Job he is faced with a big problem, he had suffered the loss of all of his goods, lost his kids, and it was painful to stay awake and it was painful to sleep, and he lost his health and in the midst of this suffering these well meaning friends came to comfort him, they are the well meaning dragons of the church, and they came to the conclusion that Job was in secret sin and he was somehow hiding it! Even though he was innocent they still thought he was living in sin so one of them said why don't you just get right with God, and as Job looked up to the heavens he realized who am I that I should go and state my case to the Lord, He is infinite and I'm finite, He is so vast and I'm nothing how can I go to God? Job understood that there was no way for him to go before God, how can an ordinary man stand before the glory of God? He would just be destroyed in an instant and so he says how can I go before God when there is no mediator between us? Some one who can stand in His glorious presence and represent me before Him? This is the basic problem of other religions, they are finite people trying to reach an infinite God, this is what separates Christianity from all other religions and isms, because Christianity has an infinite God reaching down to finite man the very answer Job was looking for is found in Jesus Christ, For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son... **John 3:16** The infinite reaching down to the finite. Other religions don't understand this because they are always seeking to make the infinite just like them finite, it's been well said that God made man in His own image and man returned the favor by making God into his own image.

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...

This what Job was wanting and in need of a mediator who could stand in the gap for Him.

Hebrews 7:26-28 NKJV - For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 NKJV - who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 NKJV - For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

For such a High Priest was fitting... The other benefit of this change is the character of our High Priest, unlike the Levitical High Priest who had a problem with dying they also had a problem with sin! Here they are supposed to go before the people as an intercessor but they themselves, had to first go and make sacrifices for their own sin before they could go and intercede for you but that's changed with Jesus being our High Priest, because He is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners and has become higher than the heavens and unlike the old priest doesn't need to offer up sacrifices for His sin on a daily basis! Instead He ministers by interceding for us, representing us, vouching for us not because we're all that and a bag of chips but because He has saved us to the uttermost, that is He has saved us completely and forever if we have put our faith in Him. This salvation is not just for me but for all who would put their faith in Jesus Christ, Jesus said in **John 3:17-18** (NKJV) 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Now for those of you who are still hesitant in surrendering your life to Jesus or your holding back on the fence so to speak, maybe you feel like you'll let Him down or He will let you down or maybe you think you're just too bad, your not worthy and will be rejected let me encourage you. **John 6:37** (NKJV) ...the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

If you want to receive Jesus as your Lord and your savior know this He will never turn you away, He will not cast you out, all you have to do is agree with God that you're a sinner and you need Jesus to be your savior, and then you simple turn away from your sinful life style by living for Jesus.

Application:

- 1. A better priesthood means the weakness of man and the law are replaced with something better.**
- 2. A better priesthood means we have an intercessor who is constantly going before the father for us.**
- 3. A better priesthood means Jesus is able to save me to the uttermost, that is He has made my salvation complete and forever if I'm willing to put my faith in Jesus.**

If you want to receive Jesus as your intercessor, and you want to be sure that your salvation is complete and forever, you will need to put your faith in Jesus, so won't you pray with me? Say Jesus, I know I'm a sinner please forgive me, cleanse my heart, fill me with your Spirit, so that I can love you and others thank you for your grace and mercy on my life, in Jesus name I pray. Amen. Now if you were sincere in that prayer then let me just say welcome to the family of God! Please feel free to contact us so we can send out some materials to you concerning the decision you just made to follow Jesus, God bless you. -Pastor Ruben