

# Sermon Notes



Speaker: Patrick Mead

2/2/25

The High Priest of Our Faith  
Hebrews 10-11

Hebrews 10:1-7

1. In last week's lesson, we skipped over a point the preacher was making in Hebrews 9 because I knew we would get to it today in chapter 10. That is the matter of what happens when a person dies with a will. That will is not in effect until the death of the one who made it.
2. I was the Power of Attorney for both of my parents. That covered everything – finances, contracts, medical care and more. At the moment of their death, that Power of Attorney ceased. I had no more say about anything in their affairs. Now, only the will could speak for them.
3. Chapter 9 closes out with a mention of the will and that it came in effect at the death of Jesus, but chapters 10 and 11 will bring to us the full force of what that means.
4. The writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 40:6-8. That is where we get the shocking news that God didn't like or want the sacrifices and offerings that fill the Hebrew scriptures. What?!? Have a look at 10:8-11 and then remind yourself of 10:1.
5. The sacrifices and offerings were required. We needed to see and feel how terrible sin is. We needed reminding that we were not in heaven yet and that this world was a difficult place for all of us. That is another reason why scripture required endless cleansing rituals, baptisms, sprinkling with blood, the sacrifice of animals and goods. And it is why it was forbidden to clean the altar. It had to be a gory, ugly, foul smelling thing and that was because sin looks like that to God.
6. Still, none of that could bring us where God wanted us. We needed more than we could do. We couldn't sacrifice our way into holiness. Our sacrifices and repentance couldn't erase the harm we had done, the evil we had loosed into the world.
7. Jesus came to take us the rest of the way home. He took us where we could not get on our own. He brought us to the reality of the love of God and a cleansed heart. Hebrews 10:11-18.
8. Now, the law is on our hearts and in our minds. Now, the sacrifice is acted out in our decisions, our words, our actions, and even by being silent and not acting when doing so best elevates our God.
9. We can now do something no humans could do before Jesus: approach the throne of God with confidence, thoroughly cleansed, full of hope. Hebrews 10:19-23.
10. Before Jesus, we urged caution. Touch not. Taste not. Handle not. Watch out. Don't do anything wrong. NOW, we can encourage each other to love and good deeds without spelling out which deeds are acceptable. Just join with each other (vv.24-25) and do good things, not because doing good things saves us but because we are saved so now we are free to do good.
11. The world feels comfortable in mocking God. I listen to podcasts run by atheists and, to be honest, most of them are respectful and seem to be honest but others are just full of mockery and insult. Scripture warns us that that leads to fire and judgment. (Hebrews 10:28-31)
12. This part of the sermon, the last portion of chapter 10, encourages us to keep our confidence and never shrink back. HOW to do that, we see in chapter 11.
13. Often called the Roll Call of Faith, chapter 11 is a treasure trove of riches. Hebrews 11:1. David Bentley Hart's translation of the NT gets it exactly right. "Now faithfulness is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of unseen realities."

14. Take a look at a pattern in chapter 11. By faith, we understand. By faith, Abel offered. By faith, Enoch pleased God. By faith, Noah built. By faith, Abraham went, obeyed, made his home in a promised land, became a father. Notice: faith requires a verb.

15. Faith is not intellectual assent. You may believe that there is a nation called China even though you have not been there. That is intellectual assent, agreeing with the evidence, but it is not faith. Faith would make you adjust your life and decisions based on the fact of the existence of China (and we could have picked any country or town here). Faith demands change and action – a verb. What is your verb? (Romans 12 and 1st Corinthians 12 are good places to start looking as would be the list of abilities and challenges I asked you to make in the last sermon of 2024).

16. By faith, Isaac blessed. By faith, Jacob blessed. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell. It goes on. Make the time to note every time faith is couple with a verb in chapter 11. It is eye opening.

17. Your verb may change from this day to the next. It may not seem much at all. It might be reaching the lost in a foreign land. It might mean carrying someone's bags to the car. It might mean selling your business and contributing the profit to a ministry or charity. It might mean taking banana bread to a neighbor. Whatever you can do to bring a bit of heaven into this world, that is your verb.

18. It can be taking care of children, the elderly, visiting a lonely person, cleaning up after a declining parent. It is any service that brings heaven to this world. Those who went before us knew that this new covenant was coming, that a new reality was approaching, but they didn't see it. (Hebrews 11:13-16, 39-40).

19. That is our assignment: find your verb. You are saved, you are loved, and God has made room for you in His house. Now...take your faith and make it more. Make it faithfulness, faith in action. Whatever that looks like, give it to God and see what He can do with it.