

Exactly What We Needed

Michael Woody | Hebrews 7:26–28

This passage shows us Jesus, that one who is perfectly fitting for us, in terms of both his person and his work, perfectly suited for our predicament and perfectly able to save us to the uttermost.

WHY THIS PASSAGE

1. In review, Jesus Priesthood is superior for these reasons:
 - a. The author begins this section by explaining to us Melchisedek (Hebrews 7:1-10).
 - b. We have a better hope (Hebrews 7:11-19)
 - c. Jesus is a guarantor of a better covenant (Hebrews 7:20-25)
 - d. His priesthood is exactly what we needed (Hebrews 7:26-28)
2. This word “fitting” as found in the NKJV and ESV speaks to the suitability, rightness or appropriateness of something - if we were to sum this up in our vernacular the CSB captures it well: For this is the kind of high priest we need.
3. He comes to this final section and he shows us Jesus, that one who is perfectly fitting for us, in terms of both his person and his work, perfectly suited for our predicament and perfectly able to save us to the uttermost.

EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED IN HIS PERSON (v.26)

1. The NKJV and ESV use a similar construction here in translating v. 26, “For such a High Priest was fitting for us,” this is not a poor translation but I do prefer to

translate it as *For such a High Priest was fitted to us*, or as the CSB renders it, For this is the kind of high priest we need.

2. Phillips in his commentary appeals to the medieval scholar, Herveus, who pointed out that when you are discussing a sacrifice, there are four things you must take into account:
 - a. Namely, what is offered, to whom it is offered, by whom it is offered, and for whom it is offered.”
 - b. Those two points clearly describe our predicament, our unworthiness and condemnation in the presence of God.
 - c. What remains is **what is offered** and **by whom it is offered**. It is in this respect that Jesus Christ is perfectly fitted to be our high priest in terms of the sacrifice he offers and of the high priest he is in offering it.
 - d. As John Owen put it, Unholy sinners stand in need of a holy priest and a holy sacrifice. What we do not have in ourselves we must have in him, or we will not be accepted by the holy God, who has such pure eyes that he cannot look on sin. Such a high priest is the Lord Christ.
3. What makes Him so *fitted* to us? It is in the context of our need in that He offers Himself:
 - a. holy (holy/pure/devout) - this is fitted to us as it pertains to God, this is the sense found in Psalm 16:10 and so rendered in Acts 2:27; 13:35
 - b. harmless (innocent/blameless/free from evil or guilt) - this is fitted as it pertaining to other people, He is sinless in action and motivation.
 - c. undefiled (untainted/ free from stain or blemish/untainted in the eyes of God) - this is fitted in His own person, He was not disqualified or undefiled for priestly service.

- d. separate from sinners - Jesus was tempted just like we are, yet He remained separate from sin; He is in a different category from us in His qualification to stand before God.
- e. higher than the heavens - He is higher than every other heavenly being, seated at the right hand of God with authority and power, this is where we need our High Priest.
- f. In all these respects, Jesus was fitted according to our need. He is all that we are not, but need to be, and so he offered himself for us.

EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED IN HIS WORK (v. 27-28)

1. The next set of verses tells us two primary thoughts:
 - a. V. 27: He did not need a sacrificial system, for He was able to offer Himself as the offering and this was needed only one time. He transcended the line of Aaron! Lev. 16:6,11,15
 - b. V. 28: He was not like the other high priests, bound with weakness (they couldn't do the office as it needed to be done and they had to keep doing it day after day) but He perfects forever (once for all).
2. He offered up Himself
3. Jesus' work is contrasted to that of the insufficient offerers (v. 27a)
4. Jesus' work is contrasted to that of the insufficient offerings (v. 27b-28; Isa. 53:10; Mark 10:45)
5. Hebrews 7:28 gives us further understanding of the superiority of Christ the offering and the offerer
 - a. The weakness spoken of in this verse is that the high priest had to first atone for himself: Hebrews 5:1-3
 - b. In this passage we have this divine statement given by the Father, given under oath, of a new and perpetual priesthood after Melchizedek's order,

that was designed to supersede the earlier priesthood established by the law.

CALL TO GRACE

1. In every way the Old Covenant and its liturgy showed insufficiency, inability, and that it was temporary.
 - a. Insufficiency was in the priest (who was sinful) and in the place (a tent/or a building made with hands).
 - b. Inability was seen in the priest (who had to sacrifice for himself) and the sacrifice (it had to be done daily, annually, and continually). Hebrews 10:1
 - c. Temporary was seen in the tabernacle that was moved daily and in the temple, which was destroyed) but this High Priest ministers in a heavenly sanctuary not made with human hands. Hebrews 9:24
2. Paul tells us elsewhere in 1 Cor. 10:1-12 that we must be diligent about two areas of failure
 - a. We be found lacking faith. Is this true of you?
 - b. We be found despising the commands of God and we chase after sin as if we are not the people of God.
 - c. We become proud of our “accomplishments” and we take pride in our spiritual walk thinking we have attained something. Are you proud today in what or who you are?
 - d. The key to all of these ills is to found in Hebrews 12:1-2. Is Christ your all today?