

5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

5:2 He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

5:3 Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.

5:4 And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

5:5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You."

5:6 As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek";

5:7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

5:10 called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"

5:11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

5:13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Good morning everyone.

I know that the rainy season is coming to an end, but last weekend we had heavy rainfall of alarming levels. It seems that the Shinkansen trains were stopped for hours between Hiroshima and Hakata. I just pray that the rainy season will end without any major disasters and loss of lives.

Today is the first service of July, and half of this year has come to an end. As with the Lord's gracious guidance in the first half of this year, we hope to move forward in the second half of the year with the confidence that the Lord will provide us with guidance filled with grace and mercy, even though the future may be uncertain for us.

In the book of Hebrews, we have been speaking of Jesus as the One who excels the angels and Jesus as the One who excels Moses, and now, starting in the latter half of the previous chapter, we have been speaking of Jesus as the High Priest who intercedes for us.

4:14 Now since we have Jesus, the Son of God, our High Priest, who has passed through all the heavens, let us hold fast the faith which we confess.

4:15 For this High Priest is not of such a nature that he cannot be mindful of our infirmities. He did not sin, but was tried in all things as we are.

4:16 Let us therefore draw near unhesitatingly unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and timely help in grace.

Following this, chapter 5 speaks of Jesus the High Priest, and then the second half of the chapter speaks of Him in the context of the enigmatic priest Melchizedek, who appears only sparingly in the Old Testament.

1 Every high priest is a man chosen from among men and appointed to serve God on behalf of his people, as an offering and sacrifice for their sins.

Even the high priest, who stands before God to make intercession for others, is a human being, and his ministry is "to serve God for the people as an offering and sacrifice for their sins.

Man could not come into the presence of a clean God in his sin and uncleanness, and offerings and sacrifices had to be offered to make atonement for his sins.

2 He himself, being burdened with weakness, was able to be compassionate to the ignorant, lost people, together,

3 Because of his weakness, he must make an offering about sin, not only for the people, but also for himself.

But that does not mean that he can come before God because he is holy and sinless.

The high priest himself is also weak, has sin in himself as well as in the people, and must make an offering about that sin for himself as well, but as one who has such weakness and sin in himself, the Bible tells us that he is "able to care for the ignorant and lost.

The previous chapter also said this.

4:15 This High Priest is not such as is incapable of caring for our infirmities. He did not sin, but in all things he was tested like us.

There must be a lot of thoughts in people's minds that a perfect God or a perfect High Priest would not be able to understand our weaknesses. The Bible repeatedly says, "He is able to be compassionate to the ignorant and lost because He has borne their weaknesses," or "He is not like a man who cannot be compassionate about their weaknesses. He did not commit sin, but in all things He was tried like us.

Yes, no matter how far we humans go, the people of God in the Old Testament, the disciples in the New Testament, and we as believers in the Church, are lost in weakness and ignorance. Therefore, God and the High Priest must be able to help us in our weakness, ignorance, and wandering.

And we know from experience that understanding and caring for this weakness is easier when we ourselves are painfully aware of our own weakness and have suffered hardships.

We are taught that we can have intense experiences of frustration and failure, of illness, of loss, of betrayal, of abandonment, of things going wrong, and so on. If so, we always hope and pray to the Lord that we do not want to meet suffering, but perhaps it is a test that God sends us so that we can be compassionate and become that way because we have suffered weakness.

1 Peter 1:5 For by faith you have been preserved in the power of God unto salvation which is to be revealed in the last time.

1:6 And in view of this you rejoice greatly, though for a little while now you may have to be afflicted with various trials.

1:7 Thus shall your faith be tested, and it shall be revealed to you that you are far more precious than gold, which, though refined by fire, shall not perish; and you shall be changed into glory and praise at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

1:8 Ye have not seen Jesus Christ, but ye love him. 1:8 You have not seen him, but you love him; and though you do not see him now, you believe in him, and you are filled with inexpressible and radiant joy.

1:9 For we have obtained salvation of the soul, which is the result of faith.

If we had a gold nugget like the one shown here, we would think that our life is as good as won, that if we have a lot of money, we don't have to worry about anything else. However, the

Bible says that gold is nothing more than a precious thing that will decay. Rather, the Bible says that what is far more important than refined gold is our faith, which has been tested, refined, and truly increased in brightness.

5:4 And no one obtains this glorious ministry by himself, but receives it through the calling of God, as in the case of Aaron.

5:5 Likewise Christ also did not obtain the honor of High Priest by himself, but / "Thou art my Son. I have begotten thee this day," He received it from Him who said, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

5:6 And elsewhere it is said, "Thou art a priest equal to Melchizedek for ever.

This Melchizedek is truly a wondrous priest. He appears in the Old Testament only in Genesis 14 and Psalm 110. He was not a priest of Israel, but a king of Salem (later Jerusalem) in Canaan, which at that time was before Israel entered. But that king is introduced in Genesis as "a priest of the Most High God," and in a blessing from him, Abraham offered a tenth of the spoil, just as he would have done to the priests of Israel.

As for Melchizedek (whose meaning is "king of righteousness"), the Bible does not record his birth, nor does it give a genealogy. Hebrews introduces Jesus by introducing this mysterious king and priest, Melchizedek, to whom Abraham, the father of the nation, offered an offering to God through this priest, and whom the Israelites looked up to with reverence.

Genesis 14:1 In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Elathar, Kedaraomer king of Elam, and Tedar king of Goyim,

14:2 These kings fought against Bela king of Sodom, Bilsha king of Gomorrah, Sinab king of Adaemah, Semebel king of Zeboim, and Bela, king of Zoar.

14:3 All these five kings went in alliance to the valley of Sidem, that is, to the Sea of Salt.

14:4 That is, they served Kedaraomer for twelve years, but in the thirteenth year they defied him,

14:5 In the fourteenth year Kedaraomer came with the kings who were allied with him, and he shot the Rephaim at Ashtaroth-Karnaim, the Zuzites at Ham, and the Emi at Shaveh-Kiriathaim,

14:6 And they shot the Horiites in the mountains of Seir, and reached El Paran by the wilderness.

14:7 And they turned back and went to En Misipateh, that is, to Kadesh, and shot every

nation of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazazon Tamar.

14:8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Adaemah, the king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela, or Zoar, went out to meet them in the valley of Sidem and formed a battle array.

14:9 And they were five kings against four kings, namely, Kedaraomer king of Elam, Tedar king of Goim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Elathar.

14:10 And there were many holes of bitumen in the valley of Sidem, so that the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah fled and fell into them, but the rest fled to the mountains.

14:11 So they took away all the property and food of Sodom and Gomorrah,

14:12 And they took Lot the son of Abram's brother, who dwelt in Sodom, and his possessions, and went away.

14:13 And a man escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew, saying, "I have taken away the property of Gomorrah, and the possessions of Gomorrah. And Abram was living by the terebinth tree of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and the brother of Aner. They were allied with Abram.

14:14 When Abram heard that his people had been taken captive, he took with him three hundred and eighteen of his trained household, and pursued them to Dan,

14:15 And dividing his servants, he attacked them by night, and shot them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.

14:16 And he took back all his possessions, and Lot his kinsman, and his possessions, and his women, and his people.

14:17 And when Abram returned after having defeated Kedaraomer and the kings of his confederacy, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shabbeh, the valley of the kings.

14:18 Then Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought bread and wine. He is a priest of the Most High God.

14:19 And he blessed Abram, saying, "I desire that the Lord God Most High, the Lord of heaven and earth, will bless him.

14:20 Praise be to God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. Abram presented him with a tenth of everything.

14:21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me a man. You take the property.

14:22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I lift up my hand to the Lord, the LORD God Most High, Lord of heaven and earth, and I swear it.

14:23 I will not take anything of yours, not even a thread or a bootlace, for I am the LORD your God, the LORD of heaven and earth. Lest you say, "It was I who made Abram rich.

14:24 Except what the young men have already eaten. And let An' er and Eshkol and Mamre,

who went with me, take their portion.

5:7 For in the days of His flesh Christ offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the One who had power to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His deep faith.

5:8 And though He was a Son, yet by various sufferings He learned obedience,

5:9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

5:10 And he was acclaimed by God as a high priest equal to Melchizedek.

Even with this mysterious, mysterious, unidentified Melchizedek, God is at His disposal to set up "a priest of the Most High God" at any time and in any place, as if He had foreseen what was to come before the people of God entered Jerusalem. If so, a mysterious, "priest of the Most High God," a powerful worker for the blessing of the people, appears, and the book of Hebrews presses the Jewish people to believe about Jesus, just as their father Abraham stooped low and entrusted his offering, knowing that he was sent by his God.

Nevertheless, Melchizedek, however mysterious he may have been, was only a man, as we have seen, but Christ Jesus "in the time of his fleshly life, with fiery cries and tears, offered up prayers and supplications to Him who has power to save Him from death. Though He was a Son, He learned obedience through sufferings, and being made perfect, He became "the source of eternal salvation to all who are obedient to Him. If we go to Him, we are the source of salvation, and salvation comes through Him, one after another.

This is the One who, through His sufferings, became a cast-off stone, a stepping-stone, and a poor man, "with tears and cries, offered up prayers and supplications to the One who has the power to save Him from death, and because of His deep faith, He was heard. He was "acclaimed by God as a high priest equal to Melchizedek.

But this is a simple explanation for the stubborn Jews. It is clear that he is not comparable to Jesus, because he was only a man, no matter how mysterious or mysterious his origins may have been. But it is told in such a way that the Jews could understand it.

5:11 There is much to say about this, but it is difficult for you to expound it because your ears are dulled.

5:12 You have been teachers for a long time, and now you have to learn the rudiments of the word of God again from men. You need milk, not hard food.

Babies have no teeth, their digestion is weak, and they can only drink something like milk. However, they will eventually grow up to chew, swallow, and digest vegetables, meat, fish, and various other foods with their teeth that are still growing. It is not clear whether it is a matter of nutritional science or not, but it is ridiculous to see a big adult living his life drinking only milk like a baby, "even though he should have been a teacher long ago. This is a very strange thing to say. I believe that this is a reference to their obstinacy in not being able to receive Jesus.

5:13 For he who drinks all milk is a little child, and cannot taste the word of righteousness.

5:14 But hard food is to be taken by adults who have been trained to actually exercise their sense of discernment between right and wrong.

The word of righteousness. Righteousness refers to a right relationship with God. What God wants from me, what is right in light of God, and what is right in light of God, cannot be right except with God, and if I ignore God and the One who sent me, I cannot understand righteousness, righteousness, or His will. The Bible tells us that adults who have left such a beginner's state and have gone through the training of actual daily value judgments, decisions, and actions are able to eat a solid diet, otherwise they are as good as babies.

Jesus was mentioned again today. The question for us is what is the place of the heart of this Jesus in our lives this week, how we visit him, how we seek him, how we make decisions, and how we carry them out. Are we mature believers? Are we mature believers, or are we just babies drinking milk? Do we stand up and run toward the Lord Jesus? Or do we live a life of faith, sleeping peacefully with the Lord Jesus?

How we know Jesus, how we are moved by His words, and how we respond to Him seem to be the key to the difference.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship service. Christ learned obedience through many sufferings, even though He is the Son. We do not want to suffer, but thank you that it is only through trials that "it is evident that faith is far more precious than gold, which is tried and refined by fire but does not perish" (1 Peter 1:6). Thank you that Jesus is always the source of salvation and fills our lives with salvation for those of us who always trust in Him, love His Word, and obey Him. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.