

Theme: Jesus, our great High Priest, not only offers an acceptable sacrifice for sins on our behalf, but is himself *the* all-sufficient sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. He continues, even now, as the mediator between God and man and he calls us as priests in his service.

Background and Introduction: Great negotiators mediate peace. Not many last in this world. We, more than any others, need a mediator who can bring lasting peace.

I. The Problem We Face

A. Our Three-fold Problem

1. Our sad condition
 - a. Ignorance of the truth (Ephesians 4:18; Romans 1:21)
 - b. Alienation, guilt (Romans 3:23)
 - c. Corruption (Psalm 14:1-3)
2. A three-fold deliverance
 - a. Our prophet – Reveals the truth and is the truth
 - b. Our king – Who rules over us and for us (Next week)
 - c. Our high priest – Who brings peace

B. Alienation from God

1. We know we are guilty!
 - By means of our own sin
 - By means of our fallen nature (Romans 5:12, 18, 19)
2. Two conditions we can never meet
 - a. The righteous demands of God’s law
 - b. Payment of the penalty for our sins – without death

II. The Promise of Deliverance – God provides for his people

A. Israel’s priesthood

1. Representatives for the people (Numbers 3:5ff)
 - Who had to be cleansed themselves beforehand (Numbers 8:5ff)
2. Intermediaries
 - Bringing the offerings and sacrifices from the people

B. Israel’s high priest

1. The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)
 - Defined: Making at one; bringing peace to the estranged
2. With sacrifices for himself (Leviticus 16; Hebrews 5:3)

C. Looking forward to a better sacrifice

1. Blood of animals – for the blood of man?
 - a. Can never really take away our sin (Hebrews 10:4, 11)
 - b. Sufficient for a time (Hebrews 9:13)

- 2. Pointing to a more perfect sacrifice (Psalm 40:6-8; Hebrews 10:5-7)
- D. Received by faith (Hebrews 10:22)

III. The Perfect Deliverance From Sin

- A. The perfect redeemer was promised
 - Psalm 110:4
- B. The perfect representative
 - 1. A true priest
 - a. Selected from among men (Hebrews 5:1)
 - b. Appointed as a representative – by God (Hebrews 5:5)
 - c. Offering the sacrifices and gifts from the people for their sins
 - 2. Unlike Israel’s high priests
 - A perfect representative (Hebrews 7:26, 27)
 - 3. Our high priest (Hebrews 4:14; 8:1)
- C. The perfect offering and sacrifice
 - Jesus doesn’t just *bring* an acceptable offering; He is the offering.
 - 1. In his own blood
 - No more types and shadows! (Hebrews 9:23; 10:1ff)
 - Entering God’s true dwelling place (Hebrews 9:11)
 - By his own precious blood (Hebrews 9:12)
 - 2. Securing an *eternal* redemption! (Hebrews 9:12)
- D. A continuing priesthood
 - 1. A priest forever (Hebrews 6:19,20)
 - 2. Actively serving for our good
 - Cf. 1 John 2:1-2; Hebrews 7:25; Psalm 121:4; 1 Peter 2:5; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 12:2; John 10:28, 29
 - 3. Setting us apart as priests

IV. The Practice of the Priesthood of All Believers

- A. As living sacrifices (Romans 12:1,2; Hebrews 13:13, 15-16))
 - 1. Worship
 - Not just when you are “in church”
 - 2. Works of mercy and love
- B. As loving intercessors

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.