**Our Great High Priest!**

**Hebrews 5**

**John 3:17** “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

* When a man reads through the gospels and observes Jesus’s life, he sees a man full of **grace** and **mercy** who came for one purpose: to save sinners.

**Three main questions:**

1. What qualified someone to be a High Priest?
2. Why was Jesus qualified to be our High Priest?
3. What made him so great?

**What qualified someone to be a High Priest?**

1. To qualify as High Priest, he had to be a man, from the tribe of Levi, and from the line of Aaron in order to be appointed to the office of High Priest.
2. To be a High Priest, he had to be appointed by God to represent the people in matters related to God.
3. To qualify as the High Priest, he had to “offer sacrifices for [your] own sins, as well as the for the sins of the people.” This was the most important responsibility of the High Priest—to offer sacrifices for sins in order to bring reconciliation between God and man.
4. To qualify as the High Priest, he needed to identify with the people. That is, the High Priest needed to possess a merciful and understanding heart towards people who lacked understanding, and who were constantly turning away from God into sin and rebellion. The High Priest identified with the people by remembering that he also needed God’s grace and mercy, because he was a sinner just like the people.

**How does Jesus qualify to be our High Priest and what makes Him so great?**

1. Jesus is qualified to serve as our High Priest because He **was sent** by God! **John 8:16** says, “I stand with the Father who sent me.”
2. Jesus is qualified to serve as our High Priest because He was **designated** to be a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.
3. Jesus is qualified to serve as our High Priest because He **is the Son of God**. God said of Jesus, “This is my Son! I AM your Father. In Matthew 3, when Jesus was baptized by John, Scripture says that He came up out of the water and the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove and a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
4. Jesus is qualified to serve as our High Priest because he has been **made perfect** by his obedience and by his suffering.
5. Jesus is qualified to be our High Priest because He **identifies with us and is sympathetic to our needs**.

**Hebrews 3:14-16** *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need*.