

Diagnosing Disease

I. Hebrews 5:1-14

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus⁹ offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who

have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

The Right Cure Requires the Right Diagnosis

II. What Makes for a Good High Priest?

“He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.” – Hebrews 5:2-3

III. Jesus is a Greater and Great High Priest!

IV. Concerning Jesus, I Have Much More to Say, But You Are Dull of Hearing

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. – Hebrews 5:11

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness since he is a child. – Hebrews 5:12

“For my part, brothers and sisters, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, since you were not ready for it. In fact, you still are not ready.” – 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

“I don’t feel like a Christian. I feel like a failure of a Christian and I don’t want that. I want to be on fire for God but I struggle with just being humble, and being wide open, or transparent. I want to live like Jesus did...I know that dying is only feared if you fear hearing depart from me for I never knew you...but if you know God’s going to say well done my good and faithful servant, then you would be ready to die and excited to spend eternity with Christ. I really want that... I want the assurance of knowing that, I’m safe.”
Anonymous

V. The Cure for Dullness of Hearing

But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. – Hebrews 5:14



GROW: doctrine



“The process of spiritual maturity is a long and challenging one. But the goal is to gradually move from a diet of milk to a diet of solid food. We may retain childish tendencies for a time, but we must be steadily growing out of them. We must learn to mature in the faith as those who possess powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. If this is to happen, we can never stop feasting on the solid food of God’s Word.”¹

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¹ Al Mohler