



# The Greatest Invitation

**December 4, 2011**

## **Hebrews 4:14-5:10**

4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

5:1 Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. 3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. 4 And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

5 In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

“You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.”

6 And he says in another place,

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

7 During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

## **Discussion Questions**

Can you think of a place that you’d like to see but will probably never be able to visit?

Does the thought of having a ‘high priest’ automatically encourage you?

Why or why not?

What does make it encouraging?

What does it mean for you that Jesus is able to empathize with our weaknesses?

As our priest, Jesus offered up prayers.

What do you think those prayers were?

Why?

What does it mean for our faith?

Looking back to verse 16, what is this telling us?

How can we approach God’s throne with confidence?

When do we approach the throne?

What can we expect to find there?

What does this mean for our prayer life and life of faith?