

Title: THE MIND OF CHRIST, HEBREWS 5:5-10
(Chatham, NJ; 03/22/15, AM) [Pc – Exegesis with Comparison/Contrast, Cause/Effect, Analogy]

Theme: Hebrews reveals several things about the mind of Christ: his humility, his reverence and prayer life, and his obedience.

Purpose: To build a model life based on Christ's behavior that we should imitate.

Introduction:

1. In parts of the New Testament we see the mind of Christ: his compassion on the crowds, his lowliness of heart, and his desire to teach.
2. The Book of Hebrews tells us even more; it contains a highly developed discussion of who Jesus was and what was in his mind.
3. Several things in our text for today stand out.

I. He Did Not Exalt Himself; He Was Appointed by God, 5-6 (Comparison/Contrast)

A. He Did Not Exalt Himself

1. To the role of high priest, 5
2. We know his humility, Philippians 2:5-11
3. Though God, he became a servant to the point of death
4. He did not take the honor for himself
5. A variation of Proverbs 27:2 – “Let another praise you, and not your own mouth.”
6. Not only did his humility become a model for us to imitate, but a higher authority established his legitimacy

B. He was appointed by God

1. This was God's work, not man's (like Gideon's victory, Judges 7:2-3)
2. Likewise salvation is God's work; we did nothing to gain it
3. Psalm 2:7 and 110:4 are quoted to demonstrate God's activity in Jesus
4. Establishing his priesthood on Melchizedek transcends not only the Law but also any notion that man could have established it
5. The point: God initiated, ordained, and sustains Christ
6. Jesus' humility demonstrates God's approval

II. His Prayers, Reverence, and Obedience (Cause/Effect), 7-8

A. The Cause: his prayers and his reverence

1. He prayed with “loud cries and tears,” 7 (In the Garden only?)
2. We know that he prayed often, Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12
3. “In the flesh” indicates his humanity – and perhaps his need for prayer and his solidarity with us
4. He exhibited “reverence” – piety: respect for and fear of God
5. 12:28 encourages the church to worship with reverence and awe

B. The Effect: God heard him because of his reverence

1. The writer draws a connecting line between praying with reverence, obeying the commandments, and being heard by God
2. John 9:31-33, the blind man states obvious theological points: God listens to the righteous
3. We know God also listens to those who cry out for mercy, Psalm 107
4. Numerous times Jeremiah is warned, however, that Israel has reached the point when God has stopped listening:
 - 7:16 – God won't hear Jeremiah's prayers of intercession for them
 - 11:14 – God has stopped listening to their prayers in times of trouble
 - 14:11-12, God won't even accept their sacrifices any longer

5. Jesus “learned obedience” – a distinctly human experience
6. Our connection to God: repentance = obedience = acceptance

III. Christ became the source of salvation for those who also obey (Analogy), 9-10

A. Direct link from us to God: obedience

1. By obedience Jesus became the “source” – like Lewis and Clark finding the source of the Missouri River, obedience becomes for us a source of salvation
2. John 12:26 – “whoever serves me must follow me”
3. 1 John 2:4-6, we must “walk as he walked”
4. These are other expressions for obedience

B. Following the stream

1. Think of yourself as following the stream from its source: getting into the flow
2. Jesus was “made perfect” through suffering, 2:10
3. Rightly experienced and interpreted, struggle refines and perfects us
4. Jesus humanity is on full display in the suffering that leads to obedience
5. Fully trusting and having faith in God leads necessarily to obedience
6. Faith prompts us to imitate Jesus and obey like He obeyed

Conclusion:

1. We are confident in following Christ because he was appointed by God.
2. His reverent attitude assures us as to how we can approach and be heard by God.
3. Obedience is the natural extension of our faith: Jesus learned it, and so must we.