

The Model of a Better Ministry

Hebrews 7:1-10

Genesis 14

Because a priest must represent both God and men, He (Jesus) could not have been believers' High Priest apart from His deigning to become a man. If He had never been touched with the feelings of their infirmities, including being tempted in every way as they are, He could not have fully identified with them and thereby been able to encourage them in their temptations.

-John MacArthur

I. The Picture

II. The Priority

Into the Bible

In the Old Testament the role of the king is to administer justice while the role of the priest is to intercede with God on the people's behalf. Significantly these roles were to be kept separate for God's people. King Saul was punished for trying to fill both roles (1 Samuel 13). But in Christ, like Melchizedek, those roles are combined. Is there Scripture to verify this? (Hebrews 4:14, 1 John 2:1-2, John 18:36, 1 Timothy 6:13-15)

Melchizedek is noted as bringing peace and righteousness together, and Psalm 85 also draws on this theme. Psalm 85:10 poetically says that "righteousness and peace have kissed each other". This is in the context of Israel's forsaking of God and in His mercy restoring them to himself (Psalm 85:1-7). How does Christ's sacrifice accomplish this restoration in regard to the separation caused by our sinful past and God's legitimate wrath? (Isaiah 53:5-6, Romans 5:8-9)

Application

Benedictions can become formulaic and merely convenient ways to signal the end of a service, but there is something quite powerful about having a blessing said directly over you. Abraham sought to meet with Melchizedek, to come into his presence for the blessing. Why is coming into the presence of God both possible and desirable in obtaining His blessing on us? (Hebrews 4:16, James 4:8, Matthew 18:20)

For Families

Talk with your children about what it means to receive a blessing from you and from God.