
Sermon Text Discussion 12/17/17

Jesus, The Priest

Ezekiel 44:15-27 and Hebrews 10:11-18

By Aaron Lewis

Overview

The problem of sin is literally a matter of life and death. The chasm between a holy God and sinful man is an unsolvable problem without God's direct intervention. The priest's main role was to mediate the relationship between God and man. Since sin is the biggest obstacle in that relationship, it naturally follows that one of the main tasks of a priest was to carry out the sacrificial system to atone for the sins of the people. Not only is Jesus our great and perfect high Priest, he offers himself as the perfect sacrifice as complete payment for our sin.

1. The costliness of sin
2. Why we need priests
3. The role of priests in the Old Testament
4. Jesus is our great and perfect high Priest and sacrifice

Quotations

But when sin entered the world, something tragic happened. There formed an ever-widening gap between God and man. No longer could an unholy and sinful man or woman enjoy the wonder of having a friendly relationship directly with God. Sin prevented them from being able to do that. Now the sons of Adam, US, have a real problem on our hands. How are sinful people supposed to ever have a chance to have a relationship with God? How can the chasm of sin between man and God be addressed? (Aaron Lewis)

The purpose of Christmas.....is Good Friday. Jesus left heaven and came to this world to die for God's children. This was by God's design. It was God's design from before the creation of this world to offer his son Jesus Christ as a sacrifice for sin. It was not plan B after the fall of man. God was not surprised that Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. The death of Christ was and always has been God's plan from the beginning. (Paraphrase of John Piper)

Through Christ's death, our sin was paid for. All of it! The cost of sin, our debt to God, was paid for and covered by the blood of Christ shed on the cross. No sin you've committed in the past or will commit in the future will shock God. If you are a believer, you can be assured that the debt has been paid. (Aaron Lewis)

Understanding & Application

1. How do we take for granted that we live in the new covenant? How is this a challenge? Why is it in some ways more difficult to not have the sensory/tangible reminders of the costliness of sin associated with animal sacrifices?
2. What was the role of a priest in the Old Testament? Who were the first priests?
3. Describe the ideal priest of the Old Testament.
4. How were priests mediators?
5. How and why was Jesus' sacrifice different than the sacrifices offered under the Old Testament? How was the Old Testament system a shadow of things to come?
6. Discuss the differences between justification and sanctification.

7. What does the fact that Jesus is our priest mean for us right now?