

DAY 14 THURSDAY

HEBREWS 5:4-10 HOW TO BE PERFECT

⁴ No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So Christ also did not take upon 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 loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, 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.

Jesus is not just the Way in that he is the bridge to God over the chasm of our sins, but he is also the Way in that he demonstrates how we are to live our lives as God's children. Specifically we see in Jesus the pattern of God-centered mission. He submitted to the Father. His submission is seen through his waiting for and answering God's call; his appointment. He also lived his life in dependence upon God, seeking his guidance even in the garden the night before his crucifixion. In the garden he also demonstrated his reverence for God, acknowledging God's will as perfect. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, he was obedient to God, even in the face of death.

Because of his total submission, God made Jesus' mission perfect. The perfection spoken of is not moral perfection but rather the perfection of being complete and effective. As the missionary, Hudson Taylor was purported to have said, "God's mission done according to God's will and in God's time will never be left without God's provision." Although these words were directed at material support, the same is true about the effectiveness of our mission and ministry. If we are to be complete as followers of Jesus Christ we must center our lives on God. As Jesus demonstrated, our mission is one of submission to God. As we study Scripture and pray, we need to listen for his call, rely totally on him, revere him as our Creator, Sustainer and Judge, and then endeavor to obey him in all things.

Lord Jesus, as you have provided the way to the Father and demonstrated the manner in which I should live, help me to grow in my submission to the gracious will of God. Create in me a heart that is will to listen to, depend on, revere and obey God. Make me into the child you have created me to be. Make me your perfect child. Amen.