

DAY 21 FRIDAY

HEBREWS 8:1-5 BEEN THERE – DONE THAT – BUT NOW...

¹ *The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,* ² *and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.*

³ *Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer.* ⁴ *If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law.* ⁵ *They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”*

There are four good reasons for us to be thankful that Jesus would not be a priest if he were on the earth today. First, he would have to be a descendent of Levi, the less than righteous second son of Jacob (Genesis 34:24-31). Second, since a priest offers sacrifice, it would mean that he would still be performing sacrifices rather than having already finished his work as priest on the cross, once for all. Third, he would still be subject to the confines of time and place. He would need to minister in the Temple, which remains in ruins, instead of interceding on our behalf in the very eternal presence of the Father; the heavenly sanctuary. And fourth, we would still be subject to adherence to the ritual laws associated with temple worship.

But Jesus is not confined to the earth as a priest of the order of Aaron, rather he has finished the work of salvation through sacrifice and taken up the work of intercession in the presence of the Father. In addition, he has learned to do this perfectly by being subjected to all that human life entails. He needs no translator. He need not ask us what we mean. He knows precisely, probably better than we do, what we are up against. And being eternal he is not only always in the presence of the Father, but also always present to us. There is no waiting room for the throne room of God.

Jesus, teach me to be ever aware of your presence to me and my need to come to you throughout my day. Deliver me from the habit of thinking about you and your presence only at church on Sunday or whenever I come to worship. Help me to acknowledge your loving presence and constant availability for intercession on my behalf. Amen.