

BETTER THAN

Andy Deane · 2/26/2023 · Hebrews 7-8

in-ad-e-qua-cy: ‘lack of the quantity or quality required’. or the ‘inability to deal with a situation or with life’.

Today in Hebrews we’ll be reminded that we rely too much on ourselves and others, and not enough on Jesus.

Jesus is BETTER THAN: Our Inadequacy

Hebrews 7:1-4; 11, ¹ *This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him,* ² *and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.”* ³ *Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.* ⁴ *Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!... ¹¹ If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?*

#1 Our best leaders are inadequate to save us

- The priests weren’t able to change hearts/actions, they could only offer a sacrifice for temporary covering of sin.
- Our leaders today also aren’t able to change our hearts/actions either.
- Instead of expecting too much from: parents, politicians, pastors, podcasts...rely more on the Great High Priest!

Hebrews 7:12; 18-19a, ¹² *For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also... ¹⁸ The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect)...*

#2 Our strength to obey God is inadequate to save us

- The problem is not with the law: Psalm 19:7a, *law of the Lord is perfect.*
- The law helps us in many practical ways:
 - Psalm 19:7b, *...refreshing the soul...* (know God’s heart)
 - Psalm 19:7c, *...making wise the simple...* (know right from wrong)
 - Romans 7:7, *...not have known what sin was...* (know myself)
 - 1 Timothy 1:9, *...for lawbreakers & rebels...* (know safety)
- The problem is with how I use the law:
 - Romans 3:20, *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law...*
 - James 2:10, *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*
- Problem is not with the law, but with the people.
 - *...God found fault with the people...(8:8a)*
 - Romans 7:14, *the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual...*
 - Romans 7:21-25, *...Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Hebrews 7:19b; 22; 8:6-12, ¹⁹ *and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God...²² Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant...⁶ But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. ⁷ For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. ⁸ But God found fault with the people and said: “The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ⁹ It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰ This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ¹¹ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”*

#3 Jesus overcomes our inadequacy to save us

- How does Jesus do this? By offering a *“better hope...a better covenant...a better promise... & a new covenant”*.
 - He gives us: a new heart, *“laws...write them on their hearts”* (10)
 - He gives us: a close relationship, *“they will all know me”* (11)
 - He gives us: a clear conscience, *“remember their sins no more”* (12)
- Ezekiel 36:26-28, *26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments & do them. 28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, & I will be your God.*

What do we do with our inadequacies?

We walk in moment-by-moment dependence on God. Our inadequacies, fears, & failures, should drive us to pray.