

“Called to be Priests”

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

1. What am I saying “yes” to when I surrender to Jesus?

- Character: Conformed to His image, Romans 8:29; holiness
- Control: Submission to the Spirit and Word
- Calling: I welcome His plan for my life which will center on bringing people to Him and Him to people.

I surrender my ambition, greed, lust, anger, self-centeredness, isolation and my role as the decider of right and wrong.

2. What is Jesus’ calling?

Today we’re going to focus on what it means to say “yes” to Jesus’ calling.

- It is a two-fold calling: Psalm 110:1-4
 - Son of David (Lk 1:32)
 - Order of Melchizedek (Ge 14:17-24; Heb 7:1-10)
 - Kings and priests: to combine these two roles was unthinkable in the Law of Moses (Saul, 1Sa 13:8-14; Uzziah, 2Ch 26:16-21).
 - Someday we will rule and reign with Him, but first we minister as priests.

3. What does it mean to be called?

- Hebrews 5:4 God selects, we don’t appoint ourselves
- “This is God’s idea, not mine. I believe He sent me here now to do this.”

4. What is our calling?

- Revelation 1:6 “He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father...”
- 1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”
- John 20:21 Jesus puts it simply: “...as the Father has sent Me, I also send you. And when He had said this He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any they have been retained.’”
- 1 Samuel 2:18, 26-28 “Carry an ephod” (Ex 28:6-14)

5. Then what was Jesus’ calling? (Heb 4:14-5:10)

- First our high priest and then our king
- Notice: priest comes before king (Heb 1:3). It does for us too!

6. How did the Father prepare His Son to be our high priest?

- Suffering (2:10; 4:15; 5:8)
- Temptation (4:15)
- Weakness (5:2)
- Humbling (5:4, 5; Php 2:3-11)
- Obedience (5:7-9; Lk 22:43, 44)
- Disappointed in prayer (5:7, 8 Gethsemene, Mk 14:35; Lk 22:42; Jn 18:11)



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7. How does Jesus prepare us to be priests?

a) He focuses our heart (5:1)

- “From men, for men”
- On people
- On forgiveness
- “I will make you fishers of men” (Lk 5:10)

b) He softens our heart (5:2)

- Sympathetic
- Humble
- Gentle
- Patient

To do this He uses the same tools:

- Suffering (2Co 1:3-5)
- Temptation (Gal 6:1-5)
- Weakness (2Co 12:9, 10; 11:29)
- Disappointed (2Co 12:9)

c) He calls our heart (5:4)

- Moves our focus from self to others
- “Ordains” us by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Ac 1:4, 5)

d) He rejoices our heart (5:9)

- He gives us a glimpse of our fruit
- Hebrews 12:2 “...for the joy set before Him He endured the cross...”

8. Conclusion

Jesus has called us to rule and reign with Him, but first He has called us to serve and intercede. The roles of king and priest were combined in Him and He has given both of these roles to us as well. But since we still live in the season of spiritual harvest and war, He needs us to put on the “ephod.” Someday we’ll lay aside that ephod and put on a crown. But not yet.

9. Application

Now that we better understand what it means to surrender fully to Jesus (character, control and calling), what is our answer? Will we welcome Him into our hearts as Lord to transform our character, direct our lives into His plan and call us to lives of selfless service and intercession?

10. Questions

- a) What was for you the most difficult part of surrendering to Jesus?
- b) Have you fully surrendered? If so, what changes have taken place? If not, what holds you back?