

Hebrews 7:20-28: Jesus Gives You a *Do-Over*, Over and Over Again

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I. Introduction

Ever wish you had a do-over? There are moments in our lives that we wish we could take back, decisions we made that we wish we could do over. Other times people or situations make us feel so worthless, so incompetent, like such losers that we lose all hope. Our lives would be so much better if every time we made a dumb or bad decision, every time someone or something made us feel worthless, we could rewind the clock and do it over. Jesus not only gives you a do-over, He gives you a brand new life and then guides you every step of the way. And every time you make a mistake, feel down or depressed, He picks you up, reminds you that He's already paid for that mistake and then helps you get it right.

II. Hebrews 7:20-28: Jesus Stops All the Negative Whispers in Your Head, He Gives You a New Start

The audience of Hebrews is under persecution and thus under pressure to walk away from Jesus and return to Judaism, especially the Levitical sacrificial system. The Levites were the priests who taught the people God's Law (Deuteronomy 33:10) and helped them mend their relationship with God by offering their sacrifices for their sins. The author has already showed them that Jesus is better than all the angels and Moses. Now, he's showing them in great detail why the Levitical order could not help them and thus why God had always intended to replace it, especially because it was helpless to help them: it could not save them from hell or the hell they were living.

7:20-25, when the high priests of the Levitical order were appointed, there was no oath involved; they became high priests based on their ancestry. But when Jesus became High Priest, He was declared as such by God Himself with an oath: God took an oath that He will NEVER take back and in that oath God swore that Jesus would be High Priest ***forever*** after the order of Melchizedek! This means that He's not only High Priest but King. Thus, Jesus not only takes care of our sin but as a loving King, guides and helps us. Because of all this, Jesus is the guarantee of a superior covenant between us and God.

Additionally, there were numerous Levitical high priests because death prevented them from continuing. But Jesus, because He will never taste death again, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore Jesus' priesthood and His ability to help us is permanent, immovable, eternal, irreversible, unalterable, and guaranteed. What does all this mean? Jesus is able to save us to the uttermost—***from anything and everything any time we need it***. Why? Because Jesus *always* lives to intercede on our behalf. There is not a time when we cannot go to Jesus for help, He, the One who made the entire universe and sustains it (Hebrews 1:10; Colossians 1:16-17), intercedes for us, prays for us, and gives us access to God the Father (Hebrews 4:15-16).

7:26-28, our thoroughly impure state demanded a pure and perfect high priest to rescue us. And that's exactly what Jesus was and is: He is holy, harmless and undefiled. He obeyed God completely; He never did anything wrong to anyone, and He was unstained by Satan and the world. And although He was surrounded by sinners and He constantly ministered to them, He remained separated from their sinfulness. And now that He's higher than the heavens, He's sitting at the right hand of God as our High Priest in the original and true tabernacle in heaven.

There's another giant difference between Jesus' priesthood and that of the Levitical priests. When they helped the people atone for their sin, they first had to atone for their own sin before they could help the people with theirs. But Jesus was not morally weak. And since He was perfect, His sacrifice, which was not an animal, but His own body and blood, took care of all sin for all time. Thus, the Mosaic Law may have appointed morally weak men as high priests, but God's oath, which came after the Mosaic Law, appointed "the Son who has been perfected forever." That is, Jesus is in no way weak, physically or spiritually. Physically, His body no longer gets thirsty or tired as it once did (John 4:6; 19:28), so His interceding on our behalf won't ever be interrupted because He's tired. And spiritually, Jesus has defeated sin and death forever. He is morally pure and will never be tempted to sin or be in trouble with the Judge of sinners. This would be like having a lawyer who stood beside you in an orange inmate's jumpsuit just like yours and had to first settle his own charges with the judge before he could help you with yours. This is the last individual you'd hire as an attorney. But not only is Jesus our perfect Advocate, He's already taken care of our fines, all of them.

There isn't a single thing that Jesus can't fix in your life. We constantly feel judged by ourselves and the world around us. We're always falling short of the standard, ours or others'. Jesus came to end all that. He came to give us a brand new life (2 Corinthians 5:17), where our failures don't swallow us whole (Luke 5:8-10), where second chances are never-ending (Luke 22:31-32; Acts 1-10). He came to bring us to glory, to save us from sin and death, to give us access to God's helping power, to be a sympathetic advocate who perfects us, who helps us overcome our own sinfulness and the sinfulness of others against us (Hebrews 2:10, 14-18; 4:15-16; 5:1, 9; 6:19-20; 7:25), and NOTHING can stop Him (Romans 8:31-29).

Therefore, we no longer have to be tortured by feelings of inadequacy, failure, doubt, fear, anxiety, depression, or the like. When we accuse ourselves or are accused by others, whether present or past, the Lord comes to our rescue. He shows us that we are no longer our old selves. We are brand new and the mistakes of our past, present, or future do not define us. Instead, we are defined by what He says about us and our life.

III. Conclusion

And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The LORD has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek' "), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.