

Sample Response for Hebrews 4:14–5:10 | Mary Hannah

Structure

4:14–16 **Introductory Exhortation:** Since we have Jesus, God’s Son, the heavenly and sympathetic high priest, let us hold fast our confession and confidently draw near to the throne of grace

5:1–10 **Supporting Claims about Nature of Jesus’s Priesthood by Comparing:**
Levitical high priests and Jesus (Melchizedekian)

5:1–4 **The Lesser:** Levitical priests’ ability to sympathize (vv. 1–3) and their divine calling to priesthood (v. 4)

5:5–10 **The Greater:** Christ’s divine calling to priesthood (vv. 5–6, 10), according to Scripture, and ability to sympathize (vv. 7–9)

Unifying Theme

Church, since Jesus, your great high priest, is exalted and can sympathetically help us to a much greater degree than the Levitical high priests, let us hold fast our confession and confidently draw near to the throne of grace to receive the help we need to persevere!

Author’s Aim

The pastor aims to **exhort his hearers to consider** Christ’s superiority as high priest over Levitical high priests, particularly regarding Christ’s ability to sympathize and his divine appointment to the priesthood, so that his hearers will **hold fast their confession** and **confidently draw near** to the throne of grace.

The pastor declares **Jesus's unrivaled authority, power, and honor** (Heb 1:1–4).

First, the pastor calls us to **consider Jesus's superiority over angels** (and thus to all created beings). The Son, enthroned at the Father's right hand in heaven, enjoys an exalted position with the Father relative to angels. The Son issues a superior proclamation to which all people must pay much closer attention. This proclaimed message concerns himself (Jesus), who embraced a path to become the founder of salvation so that he might destroy the devil and deliver his people by being humbled in the flesh like his brothers and sisters, even unto death, and consequently being exalted as high priest in heaven (Heb 1:5–2:18).

Second, the pastor calls us to **consider Jesus's superiority over Moses**. While Moses was faithful among God's people as a servant, Jesus was faithful over God's people as a son (3:1–6). It stands to reason, then, that just as those who rebelled against God's offer of rest through Moses fell away in the wilderness, so also those who rebel against God's offer of rest today by Christ will fall away. We must take care, then, lest any among the church has an evil, unbelieving heart; we must exhort one another every day and strive to enter God's rest (Heb 3:1–4:13).

Now (Heb 4:14–5:10), the pastor calls us to consider **Jesus's superiority over Aaron** (and the whole Levitical priesthood).

Church, our high priest is **exalted in heaven**, so hold fast your confession!

^{4:14}Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Church, our exalted high priest **can sympathetically help us**, so confidently draw near to the throne of grace to receive needed help for perseverance!

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Church, since Jesus, your great high priest, is exalted and can sympathetically help us *to a much greater degree than Levitical high priests*, let us **hold fast our confession** and **confidently draw near to the throne of grace** to receive needed help for perseverance!

^{5:1}For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ³Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. ⁴And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

*"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";*

⁶as he says also in another place,

*"You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek."*

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.