

## Devotion for Lent 5

### Psalm 119:9-16

**How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.**

With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments.

**I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

**In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.**

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

**I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

### Hebrews 5:1-14

#### *Jesus our great High Priest*

- 1) How was Jesus appointed to be our High Priest?
- 2) How was Jesus made perfect to be the source of eternal salvation?
- 3) How was Jesus' suffering part of His sacrifice?

### Mark 10:1-52

#### *Jesus teaches and foretells His death*

- 1) Why are children a sign of the kingdom of God?
- 2) How do we become like children to enter God's kingdom?
- 3) What did James and John misunderstand about Jesus and His kingdom?

#### **“Jesus our Great High Priest”**

Priests were important as go-betweens between Israel and the Lord. Priests offered sacrifices of thanksgiving and atonement for the sins of individuals and for the sins of the nation. People brought sacrifices to the Jerusalem temple for their sins as often as they needed, over the course of a year. Once a year, the high priest offered a sacrifice for the sins committed by the whole nation. On that day he entered the Most Holy part of the temple, where the ark of the covenant rested in darkness. He took with him blood sacrificed for his sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

The priests and the high priest were sinful human beings and so they also needed forgiveness for their sins. The sacrifices they offered never truly atoned for sins. As the author of Hebrews remarks, if they had atoned for sin, they wouldn't have been offered repeatedly over the course of many years. The sacrifices of the priests and high priests revealed the presence of sin, its deadly effect and the need for a sacrifice that truly paid for the guilt of human sin.

Jesus is our great high priest. He was appointed by God for this service at His baptism, when the divine voice declared Him His Son and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, anointed Him. Jesus made Himself the perfect sacrificial victim by living a sinless life, fulfilling the law and all its demands. Jesus was made perfect in the sense that He lived a perfect life in obedience to His Father's commands. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice that forever atoned for human sin and took away the Father's wrath at humans. What the sacrifices of the priests and high priests foreshadowed, Jesus accomplished!

Our great High Priest both mediates forgiveness between us and God and provides us with access to the Father through faith. In Jesus we stand in a good relationship with God, as dearly loved children to a loving heavenly Father. Sacrifices for sin are no longer needed, Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice that took away sin forever and for all. He is our eternal source of salvation.

**“JESUS, THY BLOOD & RIGHTEOUSNESS” (Public Domain)**  
**Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness. My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great day, cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;  
fully absolved through these I am, from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, which at the mercy seat of God,  
pleads for the captives’ liberty, was also shed in love for me.**

**Lord, I believe, were sinners more than sands upon the ocean shore,  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, for all a full atonement made.**

**When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,  
this then shall be my only plea; Jesus hath lived and died for me.**

**Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
for me and all Thy hands have made, an everlasting ransom paid.**

### **Prayer**

Jesus Saviour, our great and merciful high priest, through whom we come to the Father and in whom we have peace with God. We thank and praise you for our redemption from sin, death and the devil, which you accomplished through the perfection of your life and the shedding of your blood on the cross. We offer you the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving for the gift of faith, by which you have opened our hearts to receive you as Saviour and believe in your Name, through the word and working of the Holy Spirit. You are the source of eternal salvation for all who follow you in the obedience of faith. Bless us with faith to believe, until the pilgrimage of our lives comes to an end, we share in your resurrection and we see you in heaven’s peace. We pray in Your Name. Amen

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen**

### **The Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### **Benediction Hebrews 4:14-16**

*“Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

### **Bible Knowledge Quiz**

- 1) What did high priests always take when they entered the Most Holy Place?
- 2) What did Jesus take when He entered the Holy Place in heaven?
- 3) What do we take with us when we come to Jesus?

### **Answers to last week’s quiz**

- 1) Good works. (Ephesians 2:10)
- 2) Taphath and Basemath. (1 Kings 4:11&15)
- 3) Apostles and Prophets. (Ephesians 2:20) Could also be His word (Matthew 7:24) since the apostles and prophets spoke God’s word.