**Hebrews (Greater Than)**

**Exposing Life’s Most Dangerous Lies- Week #5**

**Small Group Notes**

**May 13 and 16, 2021**

**Introduction:**

**Have you ever met anyone famous? Who was it? What were the circumstances?**

**Did your opinion of that person change before or after meeting them?**

Sometimes we think that people can be unapproachable because of their status. Then these thoughts become assumptions that we have embedded in our lives that impact the way that we act.Some people also equate approaching God with meeting an earthly VIP (very important person). As a result, they feel intimidated or hesitant to approach God. There are also lies that we believe from the enemy that can become obstacles to us approaching the Lord. But God wants us to know that we can approach Him confidently and boldly, not because of what we have done but because of what Jesus has done. No matter what life brings, we can live in a state of confidence because Jesus secured our salvation and acceptance before God.

**Discuss: What are some of the most dangerous lies we believe in our lives?**

1. Lie #1 The Bible can’t be trusted.

* Read Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 5:5-6; Psalm 110:4; Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 7:1-3
* God dropped the “shadow” of Melchizedek into the pages of Scripture 2100 years earlier to leave no doubt when the “reality” arrived!

Explain: The writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 110:4, a reference to Melchizedek. Melchizedek was both a king and a priest (Gen. 14:18). Jesus also was a King and a Priest, but He took the titles to a new level by being the sinless Son of God. Jesus was the perfect High Priest appointed by God. He became human to sympathize with those He represents while providing the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, our belief in the Bible centers around what we believe about the word and what it affirms about Jesus!

Ask:

**What are ways that we see the lie about not trusting the Bible being communicated today in our culture?**

**How does seeing Jesus’ presence affirmed long before His arrival help you to trust in the full authority and inerrancy of Scripture?**

**When you think about Jesus being both a King and a Priest, what situations in your life do you feel these titles would be helpful?**

2. Lie #2 Jesus isn’t necessary.

* Read Hebrews 5:1-4. Numbers 16:1-38; 1 Samuel 13:1-15.
* There is a danger in both worshipping a human priest and neglecting our divine priest.
* Jesus is the greater High Priest and the only bridge between God and man because is the God man!
* Without Jesus as our High Priest, accomplishments and opinions of others become our priest.

Explain: The readers of Hebrews came from a Jewish background, in which the high priest was the head of the Sanhedrin, or supreme court. The Jewish people relied on the high priest to make sacrifices to God on their behalf—to keep them in a right relationship with God. However, Jesus was and is a different kind of Priest. He was sinless, so He did not need to offer a sacrifice for His sins. Aaron, on the other hand, was a human high priest. He was a sinner, so he had to make sin offering for himself as well as the people. Therefore, the writer here affirms that while human religious leaders can be respected, any attempt to approach God through them versus Jesus Christ is ineffective!

Ask:

**Why was it essential for the writer of Hebrews to contrast the human priests and Jesus? In today’s world, how to people think they can connect with God in ways other than Jesus?**

**What may be examples of how people try to make their own sacrifices to gain salvation? Why is it essential that salvation is only through believing in Jesus?**

3. Lie #3 God doesn’t care about me.

* Read Hebrews 4:15, 1 Samuel 1:12-14; Matthew 4:1-11
* Jesus “gets us” because He has experienced all we have and more.
* Read Hebrews 5:7-9
* Jesus understands even the difficulty of obedience
* Suffering in this life is unavoidable, but what is avoidable is suffering alone.

Explain: While Jesus is God’s Son, He came to earth and became a man. He understands our struggles and human weaknesses. The term “weakness” includes any form of human failure or stumbling. Jesus was tested but did not sin. Jesus undoubtedly faced a full range of temptations, but He never yielded to sin. Today, as our Great High Priest he now intercedes for us as our Mediator.

Ask:

**How does Jesus’ experiencing temptation just like yourself show him to be more relatable? How does his example of overcoming temptation, give you encouragement?**

**How can walking with Jesus through our difficulties be encouraging to you today?**

4. Life #4 God is unapproachable.

* Read Hebrews 4:!6
* God became man so we could approach God without pretense, without limits, and without guilt.

Explain: Sometime people find it hard to approach God because other humans have let them down. The Bible shows us clearly that God is accessible. We can take the initiative to approach His throne, trusting God to be receptive to us. We can approach with boldness, or reverent confidence, because God has the grace that we need.

Ask:

**How would you explain approaching God to a new believer? What kinds of things might hold people back from approaching God? How does reflecting on Jesus as our High Priest help us with those issues?**

**What happens when we approach God’s throne of grace? How does this equip us to serve God?**

**What was a takeaway from this discussion that has helped you to understand more about Jesus?**