

Munis Triplex

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 Burma medical Trip: Oct.31-Nov.17 (approx). Dr. Les 2009+
1. *Shock & Trauma Training* for Village Health Care Workers.
 2. **Create relationships** (mostly Buddhist). Support **Partners**. **Great younger connection.**

II. Slide#3 **Intro:** [I'll explain our title: *munis triplex later*]

- A. Ch.1,2 dealt w/**Jesus** being **Greater than Angels** & the **Prophets**.
 Ch.3,4 dealt w/**Jesus** being **Greater than Moses** (Jews favorite/greatest Prophets). **Now...**
 Ch.'s 5-10 all deal w/**Jesus** being **Greater than Aaron** the **High Priest**. [Started in 4:14]
- B. **See, you don't go before a judge w/o a lawyer, and you don't go before God w/o a priest.**
1. **Confidence rests in your counselor.** The better your **attorney** the more likely you'll be to win a **favorable verdict**.
 2. **Thus, the better the priest** the more likely you'll be able to **win the favor of God**.¹
 - a) The writer takes the logical step then in showing **Christ's qualifications** for this role.

C. **Quick look at OT priesthood.**

1. Slide#4a,b Here's what *a regular priest* looked like in his garments.
2. Now take a look at he **the High Priests garments**. **They were endowed with immense & spiritual significance.** [Ex.28 explains]
 - a) 1st they donned a **linen tunic**. **Over it** was placed a **robe of blue**. **Attached** to its hem were **pomegranates** woven from blue, purple, & scarlet yarn, placed intermittently between small golden **bells** that rang musically. **Then** a richly woven sash held the robe in place. **Next**, a beautiful *apron-like ephod*. **On each of its shoulders it bore a large onyx stone, set in gold, with the names of the 12 tribes engraved on them.** **Over it** a **breastplate** bearing 12 stones representing & inscribed with the 12 tribes of Israel. **Lastly**, the priest was crowned with a **turban** of fine linen, bearing a **plate** of pure gold Slide#5 with the Hebrew inscription **HOLY TO THE LORD**.
3. What an impressive sight when the high priest came approaching the Temple, ringing musically with every step.
 - a) **Even more impressive** was *the profound spiritual significance* of him bearing the weight of Israel on his **shoulders** & over his **heart**. **And of course** that scary bulletin-board reminder on his forehead that **HE**, the High Priest, was **HOLY TO THE LORD**...the summary of his great task.

¹ Sandy Adams, Podcast, Heb.5

- D. Slide#6blank Jesus is Superior to Aaron in 3 ways: *Jesus has...* A Greater Appointment. A Greater Compassion. A Greater Sacrifice.
- E. **Outline:** The author of Hebrews **Compares** and **Contrasts** the high priestly ministries of both Aaron and Christ.
 1. Let no one attempt to go to God *but through Jesus*, nor expect any favor from God except upon His merits.

III. Slide#7 **COMPARISONS (1-4)**

- A. Here we have the qualifications of a priest:
 - B. Slide#8a **He must be human** (1a,4) – taken from among men & no man
 1. Since he is appointed to represent them, before God.
 - C. Slide#8b **He must be appointed & called by God** (1b,4)
 1. You couldn't make yourself priest.
 - D. Slide#8c **He offered gifts & sacrifices for sins** (1c)
 1. This helps to take care of man's alienation from God, created by sin.
 - E. Slide#8d **He must have compassion/deal gently w/ignorant & those going astray** (2a,3)
 1. **Have compassion on, or To deal gently with. To have feelings in the right measure.**²
 - a) Slide#9 **Aristotle** (384-322 bc) the famed Greek philosopher, who was a pupil of **Plato**, used this Greek word 3 centuries earlier in the sense of...*moderating one's feelings or passions to avoid excess either of enthusiasm or impassivity.*
 - b) The priest was not to *pass over* the sin of his fellow man w/o any regard at all; **however**, he was not to allow himself to be *caught up in* his passion & pity for the sinner **but** he is rather to have *a controlled feeling of sympathy.*
 - c) This is the capacity to moderate one's feelings **to avoid the extremes** of *cold indifference and uncontrolled sadness.*
 - (1) **Application** - I think this is very important in counseling.
 - (a) **Calloused vs. too emotional to give right advice.**
 - (b) **Also**, in raising children. **Or**, in making decisions.
 - (c) Slide#10 **Do you have feelings in the right measure?**
- F. Slide#11 **He must have experienced infirmities of the flesh** (2b-3).
- G. Slide#12 **So**, the author of Hebrews moves from *Comparison* to **Contrasts** in the high priestly ministries of both Aaron and Christ.

² LKGNT

1. See, for 1000's of years the Jews had looked to *the sons of Aaron* to serve as high priest. Here we learn Jesus is the perfect High Priest.
2. The Levitical priests were men stained with sin.
 - a) When they burned a sacrifice for *the sins of the people* they 1st had to burn 1 for themselves
 - b) The people *lacked confidence* in their priest. The priest were *no more righteous* than the people.
3. The sons of Aaron became priests by **selection rather than by election**. God **choose them to be priest**. But God has also **selected Jesus** to be a priest. Not a Levitical priest *but* a **perfect priest**.

IV. Slide#13 **CONTRASTS (5-11)**

- A. **Only Christ is called God's Son** (5) *You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*
- B. **Only Christ was given an everlasting priesthood** (6a) *You are a priest forever...*
 1. Slide#14 This reminds us here of **one more office** that **Jesus** fulfilled, in what is called in Latin ***munis triplex*** [not 3 distinct offices, but 3 functions of the 1 office of mediator] The 3 offices were:
 - a) **Prophet** – who speaks to the **people** for **God**.
 - b) **Priest** – who speaks to **God** for the **people**. *A go between.* (who also *offers sacrifices, prayers, & praises* to God on behalf of the people)
 - c) **King** – who **ruled over** the people **but** is himself **ruled by** God [*Oh wait, that's profound. Can you imagine anyone who "rules over people", if they only did so, to the extent to which they were "ruled over by God" i.e. Husbands in marriage. Bosses @ work. Mayors of cities. Presidents of nations.*
 - (1) Slide#15 Of course Jesus fulfilled all 3 offices. Here **priest** is emphasized.
 - d) Christ fulfills these three offices in the following ways:
 - (1) Slide#16 As **Prophet** He reveals God to us **and** speaks God's words to us.
 - (2) As **Priest** He both offers a sacrifice to God on our behalf **and** is Himself the sacrifice that is offered.
 - (3) As **King** He rules over the **Church** **and** over the **universe** as well.
- C. Slide#17 **Only Christ was made a priest after the order of Melchizedek** (6b,9-10)
 1. (10) **Jesus could not** serve as priest on **earth** being from the tribe of **Judah** (i.e. not from Levi); **but** He can serve as priest in **heaven** (According to the order of Melchizedek).
 - a) And He is priest today, in heaven, for **you**, believers.
 2. More on Melchizedek in ch.7. For now, remember that in Gen.14 he was both **King** of Salem & **Priest** of God Most High.
- D. Slide#18 **Only Christ cried out to God in Gethsemane** (7-8) *Read all of vs.7*

1. **Weakness** in Gethsemane/oil-press (olive pits crushed for oil).
 2. **Sin** (not His) **but the world's sin** on the cross.
 3. **He was heard? Really...uhh they still killed him!**
 - a) Luke tells us that in Gethsemane, when he prayed 3 times for the cup to pass, before the 3rd prayer an angel was sent to **strengthen Him** (thus, the Father answered, **not by taking away the cup, but by helping Him to endure the cup**).
 - b) **Will he respond to your prayers any different?**
- E. (7b) **Jesus was heard because of his reverent submission** - Jesus was heard in his deepest woe(Gethsemane). **And, my soul, shall also be heard.**
- F. (9) **He became the author/the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him** -
1. The salvation here is the **inheritance** spoken of in Heb.1:14.
 2. It should **not be confused** with gaining of eternal life, which is conditioned **not on obedience but on faith**.
 3. Once again he had in mind **final deliverance from and victory over all enemies**.
 - a) This kind of salvation is explicitly contingent on **obedience** and indeed on an **obedience** modeled after that of Jesus who also suffered.
- G. **Slide#19 (8) He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.**
1. **What was the result of Christ's suffering? (He learned obedience)**
 2. **What does he mean by this?** (It **doesn't** mean He was a disobedient Son; **but** in His suffering He learned **the full meaning & cost of his obedience**)
 3. **How does this help "us" to take a positive attitude toward suffering?** (we'll learn obedience)
- H. **Communion:**
1. **Bread** - Jesus when you came as **The Bread of Life**. Your goal was for us to **partake of You, so we could follow You, so we could commune with you**.
 - a) **Forgive us for...the ultimate sin** of **not following** alongside You. **Not communing** in close proximity to Your presence.
 2. **Cup** - As our **Prophet** - Ty for **communicating truth from** Your Father **to** us.
 - a) **As our Priest** -Ty for **mediating/being our go-between, for** speaking to God **for** us. **For** offering Yourself as a sacrifice, **&** for actually becoming that sacrifice.
 - b) **As our King** - Ty for Your kingship, **ruling over: our lives, our church, The church, our city, our nation, our world.**