

KNOWING GOD'S WILL

JESUS' FOUR-FOLD PATTERN

1. Jesus had a high calling.

Of this there can be no debate.

5:5 and 6 make this perfectly clear.

Jesus was called to be a priest like Melchizedek.

Melchizedek was a high priest before Abraham.

There was no Jewish nation at that point in history.

Melchizedek was priest to God.

He was also a king - king of righteousness and king of peace (7:1-2).

No one knew Melchizedek's parents.

No one knows about his birth or death (7:3).

Jesus became a high priest after the order of Melchizedek (6:20)

Jesus was called to be High Priest and King

2. Jesus was also declared the Son of God.

God said to Jesus, "You are my Son, today I have begotten You."

Of this there can be no debate either.

4:14 and 5:6 make this perfectly clear as well.

The writer to the Hebrews wants to make sure we know who Jesus is.

"In these last days He has spoken to us by a Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world." (Hebrews 1:2)

"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage." (Hebrews 2:14-15)

3. Jesus was also completely full of the Holy Spirit.

For Jesus to be Son of God He was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was the Author of Jesus' humanity.

To be the Son of God implies the fulfillment of prophecy.

Isaiah said the Messiah would be full of the Holy Spirit.

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord." (Isaiah 11:1-3)

Jesus was led by the Spirit.

He taught and spoke by the Spirit.

He healed by the Spirit.

He prayed in the Spirit.

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." (Hebrews 9:14)

There is something else we learn about Jesus.

4. He obeyed the will of God.

That is what 4:15 and 5:8 of our text tells us.

That message is reinforced all through Hebrews.

"Lo, I have come to do thy will." (Hebrews 10:7, 9)

That complete dependence and obedience led to Jesus being made perfect.

That is what 5:9 of our text tells us.

"For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering." (Hebrews 2:10)

So what does Jesus' Four-Fold example mean for us?

What Jesus experienced we also experience.

1. Like Jesus, God places a call upon our lives.

"Therefore, holy brethren, who share in a heavenly call, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession." (Hebrews 3:1)

2. Like Jesus, God calls us His CHILDREN.

"It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" (Hebrews 12:7)

3. Like Jesus, God makes us temples of His Holy Spirit.

"For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brethren." (Hebrews 2:11)

4. Like Jesus, we live in complete dependence and obedience to God's will.

"So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will." (Hebrews 10:35-36)

And through that dependence and obedience we are able to be perfect.

"For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." (Hebrews 10:14)

Called, God's children, Spirit filled, perfected by obedience.

These are who Jesus is.

And we can be nothing less.

If we don't look and sound like Jesus, we aren't His disciples.

We can be a church go-er and look nothing like Jesus.

We can know the Scripture and look nothing like Jesus.

We can be a really nice person and look nothing like Jesus.

Jesus was a warrior.

He came to defeat the enemy.

He successfully engaged in spiritual warfare.

And He did it because He was utterly obedient.

David Chotka in *Power Praying* writes this powerful statement.

Paul "taught that our hope was to find our complete identity in this Messiah - who was revealed to him as Jesus of Nazareth on the Damascus Road. ... we are to hide ourselves in Jesus' own skin and let Him do the walking while we live inside. We are to be 'In Christ'. The enemy only has power over us when we are not." (Power Praying, David Chotka, pp. 250, 251)

God calls us to be involved in the work of Jesus.

But this work begins with a personal relationship with Jesus.

We are invited to God's throne.

And it continues through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit enables us to effectively fulfill God's will.

Obedience to God's will enables us to experience perfection.

This is the perfection of completing God's discipline.

When this is experienced God sees only one race of people.

He sees only a people that He has created anew.

These are the people who have passed through the cross.

These are people who were joined together by God's call.

And as a new people they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit creates a new home in which God dwells.

Jesus is our source of salvation.

All we do is obey Him.

And in our obedience we serve as He served (5:1-3).

We act on behalf of others in relation to God.

We don't offer sacrifices but we offer Jesus whose sacrifice is sufficient.

Jesus sympathizes with us in our weakness.

Therefore we deal gently with those who are lost spiritually.

We are beset with weakness and need and require God's mercy and grace.

We serve with the mind of Christ who considered others ahead of Himself.

So here is our communion assignment this week.

As we receive in our communion time, let us give in our community time.

Where do you need Jesus to impact your life this morning?

How will you invest His impact on your life for others?

"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21)