

## Sermon Notes

### I. Introduction

- **Passages:** Acts 23:1-5, Hebrews 4:11-16
- **Title:** Who Is Your Priest?
- **Key Theme:** Jesus is our eternal High Priest, offering direct access to God and interceding for us.

### II. Key Themes and Discussions

#### A. Paul's Confrontation with the High Priest (Acts 23)

- **Paul's Boldness:** Paul addresses the council with a clear conscience, but the high priest orders him to be struck. Paul responds with righteous indignation, calling out the hypocrisy of the priest.
- **Humility in Correction:** After realizing he was speaking to the high priest, Paul corrects himself, showing his respect for the law even when facing unjust treatment (Acts 23:1-5).

#### B. Jesus: The True and Eternal High Priest (Hebrews 4)

- **Earthly Priests vs. Jesus:** Earthly high priests offered temporary sacrifices for the people's sins, but Jesus, through His one-time sacrifice, provided eternal redemption (Hebrews 4:14-15).
- **The Role of the High Priest:** In the Old Testament, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year to offer sacrifices for the people. This was a foreshadowing of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

#### C. Access to the Throne of Grace

- **Tearing of the Veil:** When Jesus died, the veil separating humanity from God's presence was torn, symbolizing that believers now have direct access to God (Hebrews 4:16).
- **Boldly Approaching God:** Pastor Wes encourages believers to come boldly before God's throne of grace, knowing that they can find forgiveness and strength in their time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

#### D. Resting in Christ's Finished Work

- **Resting in Grace:** Believers are called to rest in the finished work of Christ, not striving to earn their salvation but trusting in the grace and mercy of Jesus.
- **Jesus' Compassion:** As our High Priest, Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses and intercedes on our behalf, offering grace to help us overcome sin and trials.

### III. Conclusion

- **Reflection:** Pastor Wes concludes by reminding the congregation that Jesus, our High Priest, is always interceding for us. Believers can trust Him and approach God with confidence, knowing they are loved and forgiven.
- **Encouragement:** Through Jesus, we have access to the Holy of Holies. Believers should embrace this privilege and live in the confidence of their salvation.

#### **Scriptural References**

- Acts 23:1-5
- Hebrews 4:11-16
- Romans 8:34