

SERMON-BASED STUDY: FRANKINCENSE

Hebrews 10:10-12, ESV – ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Hebrews 4:14-16, ESV – ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 What is the significance of Christ sitting down at the right hand of God after His sacrifice?

2 What does it mean to "hold fast our confession"?

- 3 How is Jesus able to sympathize with us? Why is this significant to understand as we live our lives?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Exodus 30:34-38, ESV** – ³⁴ The Lord said to Moses, “Take sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense (of each shall there be an equal part), ³⁵ and make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy. ³⁶ You shall beat some of it very small, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting where I shall meet with you. It shall be most holy for you. ³⁷ And the incense that you shall make according to its composition, you shall not make for yourselves. It shall be for you holy to the Lord. ³⁸ Whoever makes any like it to use as perfume shall be cut off from his people.”

- 4 What does the phrase “seasoned with salt, pure and holy” signify about the intended use of this incense?

- 5 What is meant by “the testimony in the tent of meeting”? How does this relate to the incense being declared “most holy”?

- 6 Why is it important that this incense was to be used in the sanctuary and not replicated for personal use?

B **Leviticus 21:6-8, 10-12, ESV** – ⁶ They (the priest) shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God. For they offer the Lord’s food offerings, the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy. ⁷ They shall not marry a prostitute or a woman who has been defiled, neither shall they marry a woman divorced from her husband, for the priest is holy to his God. ⁸ You shall sanctify him, for he offers the bread of your God. He shall be holy to you, for I, the Lord, who sanctify you, am holy.
¹⁰ “The priest who is chief (the high priest) among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil is poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not let the hair of his head hang loose nor tear his clothes. ¹¹ He shall not go in to any dead bodies nor make himself unclean, even for his father or for his mother. ¹² He shall not go out of the sanctuary, lest he profane the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him: I am the Lord.

Exodus 30:10, ESV – ¹⁰ Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year. With the blood of the sin offering of atonement he shall make atonement for it once in the year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the Lord.”

- 7 Looking at the passages above, what are some distinctions between the priest and the high priest? Why are these significant?

8

Why did Aaron have to make atonement for the people every year?

9

How has Jesus fulfilled these roles of the high priest?

TAKING IT HOME

This week, we were reminded that Jesus is our High Priest. He offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Jesus also intercedes for us and connects us to God. In what specific areas of your life do you need to confidently approach God's throne of grace, trusting in Jesus' ability to empathize with your struggles and provide you with the necessary mercy and grace? Share with your group what God is showing you. Pray for one another throughout the week.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 2:1-12

Isaiah 60:1-3

Numbers 24:17

1 Timothy 2:5