Lydenstyd-oordenkings – 25 Februarie 2010

Tema vir die week: Die versoekings van Jesus

Skrifgedeelte:

Ons het dan nou ‘n groot Hoëpriester wat deur die hemele beweeg het, Jesus die Seun van God. Laat ons voortdurend aan ons geloofsbelydenis aangaande hierdie Jesus vashou.

Hierdie Hoëpriester van ons kan ten volle met ons ins ons swakhede saamvoel, want Hy moes presies dieselfde versoekings as ons trotseer – behalwe dat Hy nie gesondig het nie. Kom ons gaan dan met volle vrymoedigheid na die troon van God. Hy sal aan ons Sy deernis en onverdiende goedheid bewys sodat ons op die regte tyd gehelp sal word.

’n Hoëpriester is iemand wat uit die mense aangewys word om vir ander hulle sake voor God te behartig. Hy lê hulle gawes voor God en bring offers vir hulle sondes. Hy kan empatie hê met die onkundiges en dwalendes omdat hy self aan swakheid onderhewig is. Hy is verplig om nie net vir die volk nie, maar ook vir sy eie sondes offers te bring. En niemand kan ’n hoëpriester word bloot omdat hy graag daardie ereposisie wil hê nie. Hy moet deur God daartoe geroep word – net soos in die geval van Aäron.

Net so het Christus ook nie vir Homself die waardigheid van hoëpriester toegeëien nie. Nee, Hy is aangewys deur die Een wat vir Hom gesê het:

“Jy is My Seun. Vandag het Ek jou Vader geword.”

En op ’n ander plek het God vir Hom gesê:

“Jy is priester vir ewig volgens die priesterorde van Melgisedek.”

Terwyl Jesus hier op aarde was, het Hy hard uitgeroep en met trane by God gesmeek en gepleit, want God sou Hom van die dood kon red. God het Hom verhoor deur die angs vir die dood van Hom weg te neem. Selfs al was Hy die Seun, het Hy gehoorsaamheid geleer deur wat Hy gely het. Op hierdie manier is hy bekwaam gemaak om die perfekte Hoëpriester te wees en het Hy vir almal wat aan Hom gehoorsaam is, die bron van ewige redding geword. So het God Hom dan amptelik verklaar as Hoëpriester volgens die priesterorde van Melgisedek.

Hebreërs 4:14-5:10 (Nuwe Lewende Vertaling)

Oordenking:

Wie was Melgisedek? Hy was ‘n priester van God gewees lank voor Aäron se tyd. Hy was ook die koning van Salem gewees wat later Jerusalem geword het (Gen 14:18). Hy was dus ’n priester en ’n koning gewees. Na Aäron se tyd en die instelling van die priesterdom was die ampte van koning en priester egter van mekaar geskei. Die koning mag nie priesterlike take verrig het nie, en die priesters nie koninklike take nie. In Christus word die twee ampte weer verenig. Christus is tegelykertyd die koning oor hemel en aarde, en priester wat vir ons intree voor God.

- Dink terug aan ’n tyd in jou lewe toe jy iemand nodig gehad het om vir jou in te tree en daar niemand was nie. Hoe het dit gevoel om alleen daardeur te gaan? Wat beteken dit vir jou om te weet dat Christus ook vir jou die Hoëpriester is wat Self by God vir jou intree en dat Hy altyd daar is vir jou?

Gebed:

Vader,
ons eer U vir die wonder van U liefde
dat U deur die dood van Jesus aan die kruis
ons vrygemaak en ons gered het.
Die plek van neerlaag
het die plek van oorwinning geword.
In die vernedering van een Man,
word ons saam met Hom verheerlik.
Deur Sy lewe wat die prys was,
kan ons die ewige lewe beêrwe.

Amen

Alan Gaunt

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Lent-reflections – 25 February 2010

Theme for this week: The temptations of Jesus

Scripture:

So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Every high priest is a man chosen to represent other people in their dealings with God. He presents their gifts to God and offers sacrifices for their sins. And He is able to deal gently with ignorant and wayward people because He Himself is subject to the same weaknesses. That is why He must offer sacrifices for his own sins as well as theirs. And no one can become a high priest simply because he wants such an honor. He must be called by God for this work, just as Aaron was.

That is why Christ did not honor Himself by assuming He could become High Priest. No, He was chosen by God, who said to Him,

"You are My Son. Today I have become Your Father. "

And in another passage God said to Him,

"You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

While Jesus was here on earth, He offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the One who could rescue Him from death. And God heard His prayers because of His deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered. In this way, God qualified Him as a perfect High Priest, and He became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey Him. And God designated Him to be a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 4:14-5:10 (New Living Translation)

Meditation:

Who was Melchizedek? He was a priest of God long before the time of Aaron. He was also the king of Salem which later became Jerusalem (Gen 14:18). He was therefore both a king and a priest. After the time of Aaron and the forming of the priesthood the roles of king and priest was split from each other. The king couldn't perform priestly duties and the priest couldn't perform royal duties. In Christ, however these two functions or roles have been reunited. He is both the King of heaven and earth and the priest who represents us before God.

- Reflect on a time in your life where you needed someone to represent you in a matter but no-one was there for you. How did it feel to face the issue alone? What does it mean for you to know that Christ is also your High Priest that represents you before God and that He is always there for you?

Prayer:

Father,
we praise You for Your miracle of love
by which You used the death of Jesus on the cross
to set us free.
The place of defeat,
has become the place of victory.
In the humiliation of one Man,
we are confronted by Your glory.
Where life was lost,
we find eternal life

Amen.

Alan Gaunt

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