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## Hebrews 5:7-10

7. “In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

8. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

9. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

10. being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”

The beginning of our text today refers to Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane just prior to His arrest and crucifixion. He did offer up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to His Father who was able to save Him from death. In Luke’s gospel account, Jesus’ prayer was so intense that His sweat became as drops of blood from His face and forehead. He cried out, “My Father, if it is possible remove this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Your will be done.”

According to our passage, in Hebrews chapter 5 verse 7, Jesus was heard by the Father because of His “piety”. Piety is defined in the dictionary as: 1. devotion and

reverence to God, or 2. dutiful regard for one's parents. Jesus fulfilled both these definitions of "piety", and so was heard by God, His Father.

But note that even though the Father in heaven heard Jesus, God still required our Lord to go to the cross. There was no other way to redeem mankind. To atone for your sins and mine.

The Scripture goes on to state, "Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered (verse 8). The things that He suffered physically included scourging and being nailed to the cross. But even more terrible to bear was the agony of being separated spiritually from His Father, God.

From these sufferings, the Scripture says Jesus "learned obedience." He who knew no sin; He who was tempted in all things yet without sin--according to God's Word needed to learn obedience through the things He suffered! Wow! If Jesus had to learn obedience through suffering, how much more so, do you and I!

The next statement in this morning's passage gets even more radical. It reads, "And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation. The first time I read this, I thought, "Wait a minute. Jesus was always perfect--because He never sinned." But this verses states He was "made perfect," indicating He was not perfect before His

sufferings!

The Greek word for “perfect” used here is sometimes rendered “complete” or “mature,” meaning fully grown or developed. This is probably the sense in which God is speaking here of His Son Jesus. In order to become a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek, Jesus’ training would culminate with His suffering on the cross.

Having been made perfect, or complete in this manner, “He became to all those who obey Him, the source of eternal salvation.”

So those of us today who seek immortality and eternal life, must do so by obeying Jesus. He is the one and only source of eternal salvation.

He learned obedience through the things He suffered. Are you willing to obey Him, taking up your own cross, and suffer the loss of all things for the sake of Christ?