

071325

“He Sat Down”

Hebrews 10:11-18

Series: Christ Before Us #27

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Background

Sometimes we stand, sometimes we sit. It used to be easy to figure out when to stand and when to sit.

But in the ancient world. Jesus sat down to teach. He *sat down* to teach his disciples, delivering the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:1-2). In the synagogue in Nazareth he *stood up* to read the Scriptures (Isa 61:1-2), then he *sat down* to speak about them. Rabbis sat to teach the disciples gathered at their feet.

A chair was often a symbol of authority. A Roman governor sat in his chair on a special platform (Gk *bema*) to hear cases and render judgment. Pilate examined Jesus (John 19:13; cf. Matt 27:19).

The metaphor of sitting is still widely used to represent authority.

Politicians run for office, stand for election, and then take their seats in the legislature.

Now chairs are commonplace. Our houses and work places are full of chairs. We spend much time sitting in chairs.

Why do we go into such detail about standing and sitting? Our text today contrasts the two postures. Both standing and sitting have a deeper significance than mere physical posture.

Sermon Text: Hebrews 10:11-18

11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. 14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. 15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: 16 “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”

17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." 18 And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

Discussion Questions

Preparation

1. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
2. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
3. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

Sunday Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus "sat down" at the right hand of God?
2. How does Hebrews contrast the old covenant priesthood with Jesus' priesthood?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus offered Himself both on earth and in heaven?
4. The sermon emphasized that God "remembers our sins no more." How do we live differently when we fully embrace this truth?
5. How does knowing Jesus is seated as our high priest influence how you pray?
6. Why might early Christians have found Psalm 110 so meaningful?