I. Slide#1 Announce:
   A. Slide#2 Burma medical Trip: Oct.31-Nov.17 (approx). Dr. Les 2009+
      1. **Shock & Trauma Training** for Village Health Care Workers.
      2. Create relationships (mostly Buddhist). Support **Partners**. Great younger connection.

II. Slide#3 Intro: [I’ll explain our title: munis triplex later]
   A. Ch.1,2 dealt w/Jesus being **Greater than Angels & the Prophets**.
      Ch.3,4 dealt w/Jesus being **Greater than Moses** (Jews favorite/greatest Prophets). Now...
      Ch.’s 5-10 all deal w/Jesus being **Greater than Aaron the High Priest**. [Started in 4:14]
   B. See, you don’t go before a **judge** w/o a **lawyer**, and you don’t go before **God** w/o a **priest**.
      1. Confidence rests in your **counselor**. The better your **attorney** the more likely you’ll be to win a **favorable verdict**.
      2. Thus, the **better the priest** the more likely you’ll be able to **win the favor of God**.¹
         a) The writer takes the logical step then in showing Christ’s qualifications for this role.

C. Quick look at OT priesthood.
   1. Slide#4a,b Here’s what a **regular priest** looked like in his garments.
   2. Now take a look at he **the High Priests garments**. They were endowed with immense & spiritual significance. [Ex.28 explains]
      a) 1st they donned a **linen tunic**. Over it was placed a **robe of blue**. Attached to its hem were **pomegranates** woven from blue, purple, & scarlet yarn, placed intermittently between small golden **bells** that rang musically. Then a richly woven sash held the robe in place. **Next**, a beautiful **apron-like ephod**. On each of its shoulders it bore a large onyx stone, set in gold, with the names of the 12 tribes engraved on them. Over it a **breastplate** bearing 12 stones representing & inscribed with the 12 tribes of Israel. **Lastly**, the priest was crowned with a **turban** of fine linen, bearing a **plate** of pure gold Slide#5 with the Hebrew inscription **HOLY TO THE LORD**.
   3. What an impressive sight when the high priest came approaching the Temple, ringing musically with every step.
      a) **Even more impressive** was the **profound spiritual significance** of him bearing the weight of Israel on his **shoulders & over his heart**. And of course that scary bulletin-board reminder on his forehead that **HE**, the High Priest, was **HOLY TO THE LORD**...the summary of his great task.

¹ Sandy Adams, Podcast, Heb.5
D. **Slide#6** Jesus is Superior to Aaron in 3 ways: *Jesus has*... A Greater Appointment. A Greater Compassion. A Greater Sacrifice.

E. **Outline:** The author of Hebrews *Compares* and *Contrasts* the high priestly ministries of both Aaron and Christ.

1. Let no one attempt to go to God *but through Jesus*, nor expect any favor from God except upon His merits.

III. **Slide#7 COMPARISONS (1-4)**

A. Here we have the qualifications of a priest:

B. **Slide#8a** He must be human (1a,4) – taken from among men & no man

   1. Since he is appointed to represent them, before God.

C. **Slide#8b** He must be appointed & called by God (1b,4)

   1. You couldn’t make yourself priest.

D. **Slide#8c** He offered gifts & sacrifices for sins (1c)

   1. This helps to take care of man’s alienation from God, created by sin.

E. **Slide#8d** He must have compassion/deal gently w/ignorant & those going astray (2a,3)

   1. Have compassion on, or *To deal gently with*. To have feelings in the right measure.²

   a) **Slide#9** Aristotle (384-322 bc) the famed Greek philosopher, who was a pupil of Plato, used this Greek word 3 centuries earlier in the sense of...moderating one’s feelings or passions to avoid excess either of enthusiasm or impassivity.

   b) The priest was not to *pass over* the sin of his fellow man w/o any regard at all; however, he was not to allow himself to be caught up in his passion & pity for the sinner but he is rather to have a controlled feeling of sympathy.

   c) This is the capacity to moderate one’s feelings to avoid the extremes of cold indifference and uncontrolled sadness.

   (1) Application - I think this is very important in counseling.

      a) Calloused vs. too emotional to give right advice.

      b) Also, in raising children. Or, in making decisions.

      c) **Slide#10** Do you have feelings in the right measure?

F. **Slide#11** He must have experienced infirmities of the flesh (2b-3).

G. **Slide#12** So, the author of Hebrews moves from *Comparison* to *Contrasts* in the high priestly ministries of both Aaron and Christ.

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² LKGN
1. See, for 1000’s of years the Jews had looked to *the sons of Aaron* to serve as high priest. Here we learn Jesus is the perfect High Priest.

2. The Levitical priests were men stained with sin.
   a) When they burned a sacrifice for *the sins of the people* they 1st had to burn 1 for themselves
   b) The people *lacked confidence* in their priest. The priest were *no more righteous* than the people.

3. The sons of Aaron became priests by *selection* rather than by *election*. God *choose them* to be priest. But God has also *selected* Jesus to be a priest. Not a Levitical priest *but a perfect priest*.

IV. Slide#13 **CONTRASTS** (5-11)

A. Only Christ is called *God's Son* (5) *You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*

B. Only Christ was given an *everlasting priesthood* (6a) *You are a priest forever...*

1. Slide#14 This reminds us here of *one more office* that Jesus fulfilled, in what is called in Latin *munis triplex* [not 3 distinct offices, but 3 functions of the 1 office of mediator]
   The 3 offices were:
   a) Prophet – who speaks to the *people* for *God*.
   b) Priest – who speaks to *God* for the *people*. A go between. (who also *offers sacrifices, prayers, & praises* to God on behalf of the people)
   c) King – who *ruled over* the people but is himself *ruled by* God [Oh wait, that’s profound. Can you imagine anyone who “rules over people”, if they only did so, to the extent to which they were “ruled over by God”?] i.e. *Husbands in marriage. Bosses @ work. Mayors of cities. Presidents of nations.*
      (1) Slide#15 Of course Jesus fulfilled all 3 offices. Here *priest* is emphasized.
   d) Christ fulfills these three offices in the following ways:
      (1) Slide#16 As *Prophet* He reveals God to us and speaks God’s words to us.
      (2) As *Priest* He both offers a sacrifice to God on our behalf and is Himself the sacrifice that is offered.
      (3) As *King* He rules over the Church and over the universe as well.

C. Slide#17 Only Christ was made a priest after the order of *Melchizedek* (6b,9-10)

1. (10) *Jesus could not* serve as priest on *earth* being from the tribe of *Judah* (i.e. not from Levi); *but* He can serve as priest in *heaven* (According to the order of Melchizedek).
   a) And He *is* priest today, in heaven, for *you*, believers.

2. More on Melchizedek in ch.7. For now, remember that in Gen.14 he was both *King* of Salem & *Priest* of God Most High.

D. Slide#18 Only Christ *cried out* to God in Gethsemane (7-8) *Read all of vs.7*
1. **Weakness** in Gethsemane/oil-press (olive pits crushed for oil).

2. **Sin** (not His) but the *world’s sin* on the cross.

3. **He was heard? Really...uhh they still killed him!**
   a) Luke tells us that in Gethsemane, when he prayed 3 times for the cup to pass, before the 3rd prayer an angel was sent to strengthen Him (thus, the Father answered, not by taking away the cup, but by helping Him to endure the cup).
   b) Will he respond to your prayers any different?

E. (7b) Jesus was heard because of his reverent submission - Jesus was heard in his deepest woe (Gethsemane). And, my soul, shall also be heard.

F. (9) He became the author/the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him -
   1. The salvation here is the **inheritance** spoken of in Heb.1:14.
   2. It should *not be confused* with gaining of eternal life, which is conditioned *not* on obedience *but* on faith.
   3. Once again he had in mind final deliverance from and victory over all enemies.
      a) This kind of salvation is explicitly contingent on obedience and indeed on an obedience modeled after that of Jesus who also suffered.

G. Slide#19 (8) He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.
   1. What was the result of Christ’s suffering? (He learned obedience)
   2. What does he mean by this? (It doesn’t mean He was a disobedient Son; but in His suffering He learned the full meaning & cost of his obedience)
   3. How does this help “us” to take a positive attitude toward suffering? (we’ll learn obedience)

H. **Communion:**
   1. **Bread** - Jesus when you came as *The Bread of Life*. Your goal was for us to partake of You, so we could follow You, so we could commune with you.
      a) Forgive us for...the ultimate sin of not following alongside You. Not communing in close proximity to Your presence.
   2. **Cup** - As our **Prophet** - Ty for communicating truth from Your Father to us.
      a) As our Priest - Ty for mediating/being our go-between, for speaking to God for us. For offering Yourself as a sacrifice, & for actually becoming that sacrifice.
      b) As our **King** - Ty for Your kingship, ruling over: our lives, our church, The church, our city, our nation, our world.