**Hebrews 5:1-4**

[*https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/heb/heb-5/hebrews-51-4/*](https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/heb/heb-5/hebrews-51-4/)

*Paul lists the qualifications for a priest: appointed by God, offers gifts and sacrifices, he is human, with human weaknesses and can deal with sinners with understanding.*

Paul lays out the qualifications for being a priest and in the next verses will show how Christ meets these qualifications. Since the audience of Hebrews was a group of Jewish believers they would be very familiar with the role and qualifications of priests.*Every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God***,** to mediate between men and God. They *offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins* on behalf of the people to God. Since priests themselves are human, they are able to *deal gently* and empathize with those who are *ignorant and misguided*.

The phrase *deal gently* implies compassion; all men are weak, so we ought to be able to empathize or have compassion on one another in our *weaknesses*. A priest is *himself also is beset with weakness* in the face of sin*.* Since priests are themselves human, they are *obligated to offer sacrifices for sins* on their own behalf, as well as for the people they represent ([Leviticus 16:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Leviticus+16.6&t=NASB95)). Lastly, priests do not appoint themselves nor are they appointed by the people. Rather, they are appointed by God. Paul uses *Aaron* as an example of a priest being *called by God* ([Exodus 28:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+28.1&t=NASB95)). Jesus meets this qualification as well, since He is human and was tempted in every way any human is tempted ([Hebrews 2:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.18&t=NASB95); Hebrews 4:18).

**Biblical Text:  
1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; 2he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness; 3 and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself. 4 And no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God, even as Aaron was.**