

MID-WEEK DEVOTIONS

Read Hebrews 8

Reflection: When my sons were little, we gave them a game they could play at home. It was a type of tabletop soccer, where you flick little plastic figures an inch or two high, so they would hit the ball and try to get it into the opponent's goal. It was a simple game, perfect for little fingers who could flick the players in exactly the right way.

But what if the game was given to a family who had not only never seen a real soccer game, but didn't know such a thing even existed. They might imagine the tabletop game was all there was, it was reality. They wouldn't know it was a copy of the real thing, and gained most of its meaning because it was reminding them of the true, grown-up version.

Something like this, only more so, lies at the heart of the contrast Hebrews now draws and will go on drawing, between the Temple in Jerusalem, the tabernacle in the wilderness, and the true or real shrine which is in heaven. This passage draws together for the last time the contrast between Jesus as the true high priest and all the priests that have gone before him, and the contrast between the old covenant and the new covenant brought into being by Jesus. The conclusion is that readers must learn to distinguish between the copy and the reality.

Question:

- How does the writer describe the present and continuing role of Jesus in verses 1-6?
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- This passage draws together for the last time the contrast between Jesus and the priesthood before him. How does verses 1-6 outline this final contrast?
- The readers of Hebrews are encouraged not to cling to the copy. How do you see people today choosing to focus on a "copy" instead of on the reality of Jesus?
- What does it mean to you that God forgets your sins?

Pray:

Sit in silence for a few moments and consider God's promises. Ask God to speak those promises to you and then listen for the voice of God.