

“Jesus Our GREAT High Priest”
Hebrews 4:14-16
1/4/26
Message 7

Communion

• **The Last few Messages**

- “Come, Let Us Worship Our King” - Matthew 1-2 & Luke 1-2
 - The First Advent was surrounded with Worship – so should our lives be
- “Immanuel = “God with us” - Isaiah 7:14 & Isaiah 9:6
 - The Jesus came into the VERY Dark world – to BE with US
- “A Living Sacrifice” - Romans 12:1-2
 - As a result we SHOULD live our lives completely surrendered to Jesus
- Now Today
 - Focus on Jesus our Great High Priest
 - Jesus KNOWS
 - But we want to spend an extended time in Worship and Communion
 - As we move into the New Years –
 - We need to THE HOLY SPIRIT
 - So Many methods in churches
 - What we really need is a great move of the HS in our lives

- Communion
 - First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
 - Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
 - Third: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34
 - Fourth: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, *“Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, *“This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Jesus Our GREAT High Priest”

• **Illustration – 2 Predominant Struggles Christians Can Face**

- **1. Self-Dependency**
 - Glad I got a Savior, But I am going earn this Salvation
 - I am going to lean on my
 - Own understanding
 - Rely upon my own strength
 - Take matters into my own hands

- I am going to PLEASE God in my OWN power
- In some way this is what we are taught
 - PULL yourself and get GOING
- So we Study God's Word
 - We get smarter in the Word – (BUT It's just education)
 - We Try to lead our family “spiritually” in our own Power
 - Were
 - Going to Church, Taking Classes, Attend Conference's, Start Setting Goals, memorize scripture, etc...
 - Your “Christian Walk” has become a Project...
 - Maybe we even have some early succuss
 - BUT then we Realize...
 - It's NOT working
 - **2. Problems can happen when we do this**
 - **1. We can become very Prideful**
 - Wow look at how I am doing?
 - BUT Knowledge puffs up!!!

1 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

- KNOW this – If Your Knowledge of God's Word Does not bring Grace front and Center in your life and Grace in how you deal others – YOU ARE ON THE WRONG PATH

- 2. We can get very tired –

- Trying to be a Christian in own strength is exhausting

- 3. We feel Condemned and Discouraged

- We feel like Quitting
- This Failure can lead to being so DISCOURAGED that you FEEL totally Condemned – might as well QUIT
- You Struggle with SIN and the Sin Nature
- You Wonder if you will ever be ABLE to have victory
- It can be a downward spiral

- **3. We Have a Great High Priest to Help us**

- KNOW This

- 1. Know This the Christian Walk Can NEVER be Done in the flesh

Galatians 3:3 (NKJV)

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

- So When we come to the end of ourselves – THEN God can begin to Work in Greater ways
- 2. WE have A GREAT High Priest who is on your SIDE
 - May we move into this next year truly understand how much Jesus is FOR us and wants to help us

- **Review**

- **Importance Of Hebrews**

- **1. Connecting the Testaments**

- **2. Jesus is Superior**

- Jesus is BETTER Than

- The Prophets - Ch 1
- The Angels - Ch 1-2
- Moses - Ch 3
- Joshua – Ch 4
- The High Priest – Ch 5-9
- The Tabernacle Ch 9
- The Law & Sacrifices Ch 10

- **3. Encouragement - Don't quit**

- The ultimate goal of the book
 - To encourage those who are struggling with difficult times, and help them to endure.

- **Last Time – His REST – Hebrew 4:1-3**

- **His Rest vv. 1-11**

- Joshua offered a lesser REST
- Jesus offers forever rest

- **His Word vv. 12-13**

- 1. God's Word Is Living v. 12a

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- 2. God's Word Is Penetrating v. 12c-13

Hebrews 4:12–13 (NKJV)

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

- I Love How Paul lays us OPEN in this section about God's Word and then BOOM the next section is all about how GREAT Jesus our High Priest is!

• Now This Morning 3 Wonderful Promises about Jesus Our GREAT High Priest

- The Reminder Of Who Jesus Is For Us – v. 14
- The Reason Jesus Is Our GREAT High Priest v. 15
- The Response We Are To Have v. 16

The Reminder Of Who Jesus Is For Us – v. 14

• 1. Seeing then that we have a great High Priest v. 14a

Hebrews 4:14 (NKJV)

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

- **1. The High Priest**

▪ **Context**

- Remember written to Jewish People –

- They would understand HIGH Priest

- **Briefly Explain**

- Explain How High Priest represented Israel

- Stood between God and His People
- Only Tribe of Levi

- **Show Pic x 2**

- Ephod was a special priestly garment
- It resembled an apron or vest
- Made of fine linen and gold thread, worn by the high priest
- It was crucial for priestly service
- Featuring shoulder pieces with onyx stones (representing the tribes) and a girdle, and held the breastpiece with the Urim and Thummim, used for divination to seek God's counsel
- Breastpiece of Judgment:
 - A square pouch attached to the ephod, holding twelve precious stones, each engraved with the name of one of the twelve tribes.
- Symbolism:
 - This placement over the heart symbolized the priest bearing the people's representation and needs constantly before God.

- Explain Tabernacle / Temple how it worked

○ **Show Pic**

- Explain Duties

○ **2. Jesus OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST**

- **The idea that Jesus is our GREAT High Priest was mentioned before**

- Chapters 3-13 mentions this term 17 times
- But now the idea will be developed more extensively and through the next few chapters
- (Hebrews 2:17 and Hebrews 3:1)

Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

- The Context in Chapter 2 is Explaining why INCARNATION
 - Jesus left heaven and came to earth as a man
 - 1. He came to be THE SACRIFICE
 - But He also came to be the High Priest – dual role
 - He's the Priest who OFFERS the sacrifice, but He also offered Himself AS the sacrifice
 - 2. He became a man so that He could relate to us

- He became a man so that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest... We can count on Him
- Merciful – Compassionate – Get in someone else's skin feel what they're feeling – Walk in their Sandals
- Jesus walked in our Sandals – shared in man's battle with the flesh – our human frailty
- Our High priest is there every day to help us!
- **Application**
 - He KNOWS
 - At times when are going through a struggle (Trial)
 - The person were talking with may say the understand...
 - BUT The reality is – if they have not gone through they cant understand
 - Well Jesus KNOWS
 - He knows the struggle with temptation – NOT SIN but Temptation
 - He had His share of TRIALS on this earth
 - That make Him qualified to Understand

• **2. Who has Passed Through The Heavens v. 14b**

Hebrews 4:14 (NKJV)

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

- **Passed through –**

- Greek: Dierchomai
- Means: To go through, pass through
- **When He ascended to the Father**
 - Jesus Christ passed through the
 - Atmospheric heavens
 - The planetary heavens
 - Into the third heaven where God dwells (2 Cor. 12:2)
 - The POINT He is With God
 - How much better is it to have a High Priest who ministers in a heavenly tabernacle than in an earthly one!

• **3. Let us hold fast our confession v. 14c**

Hebrews 4:14 (NKJV)

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our confession.**

- **1. Let us hold fast our confession**
 - Hold Fast –
 - Greek: Krateo –
 - Means: To have power, be powerful; to get possession of; to take hold of; to hold
 - Confession –
 - Greek: Homologia –

- Means: Profession
- Remember that the readers were thinking of abandoning Jesus.
 - He tells them to hold tight instead.
 - So don't abandon your walk with Jesus
 - Because Jesus Will Not Abandon YOU

The Reason He Is Our GREAT High Priest v. 15

1. We do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize v. 15

1. Who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses v. 15a

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- Sympathize –
 - Greek: Sumpatheo (“with” + “suffer or feel”) – (our word “sympathetic”)
 - Means: To be affected with the same feeling as another, to sympathize with; to feel for, have compassion on
 - The ancient Greek word translated sympathize literally means
 - **“To Suffer Along With!”**
- What makes the difference is that Jesus added humanity to His deity
 - HE lived among us.
- When you have been there, it makes all the difference.

- We might hear of some tragedy on the news
- But it is completely different being in that tragedy
- **2. But was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin v. 15b**

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- **Jesus can sympathize with our weakness and our temptation,**
 - But He cannot sympathize with our sin.
 - We should not think that this makes Jesus less sympathetic to us, and that He could understand us better if He had sinned Himself.
- **PLEASE NOTE**
 - Sometimes we think that because Jesus is God,
 - He could never know temptation the way we do.
 - The REALITY
 - Jesus faced temptation much more severely than we ever have or ever will.
 - The Sinless One knows temptation in ways we don't, because only the one who never gives into temptation knows the full strength of temptation.
 - The GREAT the MEANS to SIN the greater the temptation
 - Take Pornography

- Back in the day – people had to go buy...
- How many did not go buy not because they weren't tempted BUT because they did not want anyone to know
- NOW – it all over the place for free – a greater temptation...
- Jesus, turn these stones into BREAD...
 - Jesus could do that... Greater temptation
- Application
 - Jesus our great High Priest not only is perfectly merciful and faithful but also PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDING
 - Physical weakness – tired – fatigued – felt physical pain
 - Also emotional pain: He knows what it is like to be rejected and grieved
 - And He knows what it is like to be tempted!

The Response We Are To Have v. 16

- **1. Let us therefore come boldly**

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- **Come Boldly**
 - Come –
 - Greek - Proserchomai –

- Means - To come to, approach; draw near to; to assent to
- Boldly –
 - Greek - Parrhesia –
 - Means - Freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech
 - “Boldly” might give you the wrong idea.
 - We might better translate this, “Let us therefore come and speak freely at the throne of grace”
 - We use the phrase, “speak freely”. That’s the idea here. God wants you to “speak freely” to Him.
- Because we have a High Priest who is both omnipotent and compassionate
 - Satan wants to hinder this –
 - You have blown – Jesus wants nothing to with you...
 - You cant come back you have done HOW many times...
 - BUT GOD
 - We can come boldly to His throne.
 - Boldly means we may come constantly.
 - Boldly means we may come without reservation.
 - Boldly means we can come freely, without fancy words.

- Boldly means we can come with confidence.
- Boldly means we should come with persistence.

• **2. The throne of grace v. 16b**

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

16 *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- **The throne of God is a throne of grace**
 - A Throne of Judgment.... NO
 - GRACE
 - G- God's
 - R- Riches
 - A- at
 - C- Christ's
 - E- Expense
 - Remember that grace does not ignore God's justice
 - It operates in fulfillment of God's justice, in light of the cross.
 - For the believer, God's throne is not a throne of judgment or condemnation.
 - It is a place where we find mercy and grace.

• **3. Find grace to help in time of need v. 16c**

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

16 *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- **1. That we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

- What do we FIND
 - Mercy and Grace
- When we fail we feel condemned and are tempted to quit
 - I am done – I'm a failure – what's the use – never going to get this right – I AM DONE
- BUT God Says
 - Let us therefore come boldly
 - It means in Greek it refers to
 - Confidence that your case will be heard in court and you'll be found "not guilty"
 - With confidently come to the throne of GRACE, not condemnation

Closing

- Run to the fountain of MERCY & GRACE and Do so BOLDLY