

Week Eight: The Great High Priest of Jesus: “Our Victorious Priest” – Part One

Introduction

The superiority of Jesus’ priesthood enables him to sympathize with our weakness and allows us to come confidently to the throne of grace.

Digging Deeper

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

In Hebrews 4:12-13, we saw one example of why we should enter into God’s rest through faith in Christ - because God’s word exposes the motives of our heart. We cannot hide from Him. In verses 14-16 we see another reason. Why should we enter that rest and hold fast our confession? Because we have a great high priest, Jesus, who has triumphed over sin on our behalf. He understands our weaknesses and temptations, yet He is without sin. Because of the power of His indestructible life (7:16), the grave could not hold Him. He conquered sin and death and is now seated in heaven making intercession for us (Rom. 8:34) as our high priest.

What an impetus for faith! The God who exposes our weaknesses has overcome those same weaknesses by His own righteous life. He met the requirements of the law that we could not. “He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). In Christ, we are the righteousness of God. Because of this, we can come to God’s throne to receive mercy and to find grace. This is the same throne that Isaiah saw and lost all courage. Yet in Christ, we can come with confidence, knowing we are now at peace with God. “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1).

Bible Study Questions

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

1. What does it mean for Jesus to have “passed through the heavens”? v.14 (Hint: He is in the highest heaven, seated at the right hand of God because atonement is complete)

2. Why is Jesus called a great High Priest? (He surpasses his earthly predecessors priestly work. Theirs cannot compete with his in range, nature, cost, and efficacy)

3. What is the significance of our author stating the name “Jesus” here? (Indication of his humanity)

4. What is the significance of our author calling Jesus the Son of God? (Indication of Jesus’ divinity)

5. What does it mean for you to read that our completely victorious High Priest can completely identify with our weaknesses and temptations?

6. Read verse 16 aloud. Knowing what we do from verse 14 and 15, how should this affect our prayers?

7. Discuss the following statements;

“Prayerlessness is the root of all sin.” - P.T. Forsyth

“To be prayer less is to be guilty of the worst form of practical atheism.” - Raymond Brown

Group Application Questions

1. Does it strengthen your faith to know that Jesus understands your weaknesses? Read Phil. 2:5-11 to see to what extent He emptied Himself to walk in your shoes.
2. When you are faced with doubts, remember that Jesus is praying for you! He knows you better than you know yourself. He knows what you need and is able to supply all your needs. What needs can you bring before Him today? Go before His throne confident that you will find help.

Prayer

Spend time praying for one another in regards to question 2 from the Group Application Questions.

*Digging Deeper and Group Application Questions were adapted from Richland Hills Community Church, Kent Hughes’ Hebrews Commentary (An Anchor for the Soul), and The NIV Application Commentary by George H. Guthrie.

