

OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Life Groups; Week of Sunday, January 29, 2023; Hebrews 4:14-16; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme – Believers have a great high priest, who is transcendent, tender, and identifies with God’s people, and yet without sin. So, He can stand in God’s presence and intercede on their behalf. Therefore, we are welcomed before the throne of God, this day, and every day, with total confidence that God is for us!

I. Transcendent High Priest – Read Hebrews 4:14

- A. As you’re reading through the book of Hebrews, how do the claims about the person of Christ in Hebrews 4:14-16 compliment the truths already given to us in Hebrews chapter 2:14-18?
- B. What three characteristics do Hebrews 4:14 ascribe to Jesus? How do these characteristics about the Lord Jesus Christ help us to hold fast to our confession of faith?
- C. What do you think it means that Jesus “passed through the heavens”? How do other passages in Hebrews help with our interpretation (6:19-20; 8:1-2; 9:11-12; 10:20)? How does Jesus as our Great High Priest compare with the O.T. high priests and their access to God?

II. Tender High Priest – Read Hebrews 4:15

- A. What observations do you make about verse 15?
- B. Why is it so critical to understand that Jesus can sympathize with sinners?
- C. What is the difference between temptation and sin? How could Jesus be tempted and yet remain sinless? How is this different from our own experiences with temptation and sin?
- D. How is it an encouragement that the One who passed through the heavens can sympathize with your weakness because He experienced the same temptation when he was here on earth?

III. Trusted High Priest – Read Hebrews 4:16

- A. Why are Christians able to draw near to the throne of grace with confidence? What causes you to be apprehensive in approaching God’s throne? What things in your life prevent you from confidently approaching the Lord to receive mercy and grace to help you in time of need?
- B. How do Christ’s sympathy with sinners and His sinlessness ground the command to boldly approach God’s throne in time of need?
- C. What do you think is the greatest need in your life right now? How can the Lord be helpful to meet that need? Are you more prone to ask for His help or for the help of others?