

Jesus ...He Gets Us

Heb 4:14-15

October 1, 2023

Heb 4:14-16 *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Simple reasoning structure: "Since we have..." "Let us ..."

Why would we do the "Let us ..." part of this passage? ...Because we've seen and understood and been affected by the "Since we have ..." portion!!

This is yet another one of those moments in Hebrews where there's some form of—"Consider Jesus!" being presented to us

So, what becomes of the Christian who has little to consider? ...What happens to the Christian who's unfamiliar with the Jesus of Scripture? This "author of our great salvation", this "great high priest whose even passed through the heavens!", this one who is greater than Moses and the Angels!!, the one "for whom and by whom all things exist" (Heb 2:10)

Transcendence ...&... IMMINENCE

"He gets us" ...

...the Bible makes a lot of presentation about the Mind-Blowing, Mysterious, Transcendence of God!! ...He is to be understood by ALL in a way that promotes and facilitates the "Fear of God"!! **...If I get "The Fear of God", then I get why "Drawing Near" is more awesome and Mind-blowing than Court-side Seats!! ...if I don't Get God right—then Everything Else in My Life will be Out of Place** ("over-valued" ... "under-valued" ... "ignored" ... "obsessed over")

Proverbs 1:1-7 *The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:*

² *To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,*

³ *to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;*

⁴ *to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—*

⁵ *Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,*

⁶ *to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.*

⁷ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Transcendent But Also IMMINENT! ...

FULLY HUMAN

- Welcome to "Humanity 101" ...What does it mean to be "Fully Human"??
 - Before the Fall ...it was a "Harmonious Existence" ...all things were oriented around God, His Glory, and His Purpose! ...There was no friction, no failure, no hostility, no curse or lack of cooperation! ...no comparison, no competition, no self-interest ...no fear, pride, or selfish ambition!
 - After the fall ...there is Futility, Frustration, Hostility, Resistance, Brokenness, Suffering, Pain, Disharmony, Weakness, Delay, Despair ...SIN! Temptation! and Satan!

"Among the days of His life on earth there were some which peculiarly deserved to be called "the days of His flesh" — days in which His feeble Nature pushed itself to the front. Then men saw less of His greatness as a Teacher and more of His suffering as Man.

Brothers and Sisters, I beseech you to think of our Lord's pleading, "in the days of His flesh," as a matter of fact. Do not dream of Him as though He were a phantom and of His prayers as if they were part of a mere show. He was a real Man and His prayers were as real as yours can be. Believe in Jesus as Man. ...He was, in very deed, made flesh and dwelt among us! ... We must get a firm grip of the true Humanity, or otherwise we lose the Sacrificial death, the Resurrection and all the rest — and the Brotherhood of our Lord, which is a grand source of consolation, also disappears. Remember that He who sits at the right hand of God was once here in the likeness of sinful flesh! He who shall shortly come to judge the quick and dead passed through a period of limitation, weakness, suffering, weariness since He was in human flesh. "The days of His flesh" were, to Him, days of poverty, sickness, weariness, reproach and temptation — though in Him was no sin, yet He was tempted and tried in all points like as we are. Inasmuch as He has passed through such days as these, He is fitted to be the High Priest of Believers who also are passing through the days of their flesh. Brothers and Sisters, we know too well that we are partakers of flesh and blood — and it is no mean comfort that our Lord Jesus, Himself, took part in the same!

In the days of His flesh, our Divine Lord felt His necessities. The words, "He offered up prayers and supplications," prove that He had many needs. Men do not pray and supplicate unless they have greater needs than this world can satisfy. Men work for what they can get by working, but pray for that which can by no other means be obtained. The Savior offered no petitions by way of mere form — His supplications arose out of an urgent sense of His need of heavenly aid. It is difficult to realize it, but so it is, that our Divine and innocent Savior placed Himself in such a condition for our sakes that His needs were manifold. Of course, as God, He could come under no necessity, but being Man, like ourselves, He did not permit the power of His Godhead to destroy the man-like weakness of the flesh! Therefore He endured such necessities as we do and resorted, as we must, to the one all-sufficient Source of supply, approaching His Father by prayer! He sought for blessings with prayers, He pleaded against evil with supplications. His approaches to God were many..." **Charles Spurgeon** (Spurgeon's Sermons, The Complete Set (63 Vols.))

... "He himself has suffered" ... HE GETS US!

Sympathy = Suffering with Us

Heb 4:15 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

sympatheō; from 4835; to feel "sympathy" with, i.e. (by implication) to commiserate: — have compassion, be touched with a feeling of. => sympaschō; from 4862 and 3958 (including its alternate); to experience pain jointly or of the same kind (specially, persecution; to "sympathize"): — suffer with. => paschō; apparently a primary verb; to experience a sensation or impression (usually painful): — feel, passion, suffer, vex. (Enhanced Strong's Dictionary)

"...the Greek word translated sympathize here means much more than a flash of compassion or a surge of pity. Our experience of sympathy is usually limited to feeling sorry for someone and being thankful that we're not in the same boat. But sympathy here means to be moved by what has moved someone else. Christ's sympathy is so strong that our problems become his. This is much more than feeling sorry for someone in a tough spot. It is understanding what it is like to live in the middle of someone else's circumstances, coupled with a desire to do whatever is within your power to help him out." **Paul Tripp**, "Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands", p. 166

“The Greek word in this passage translated “weaknesses” is also very strong. It is best understood as “the human condition.” The writer of Hebrews is saying that Jesus really understands what it means to live in this fallen world. He understands the full catalog of temptations we face. He understands how difficult and complicated our relationships are. He understands betrayal, rejection, physical pain, and aloneness. Jesus knows what it means to be human. He knows us!” **Paul Tripp**, “Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands”, p. 166

Heb 2:17-18 *Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

“It is an amazing comfort to realize that the one we run to “gets it.” He fully understands what we are going through and is motivated to respond with appropriate help. Isn’t that what everyone in trouble wants? You want more than pity, a pat on the back, or some hopeful words. You want someone who is able to grasp what you are talking about and cares enough to help you do something about it. It is a sweet grace to realize that we find all this in Christ. He is not only our ultimate helper but our model as well. Only in him do we learn how to interact with people in need.” **Paul Tripp**, “Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands”, p. 166

...**Don’t underestimate how much we are sometimes simply seeking “to be understood”!!** ...Their “understanding” helps us feel connected, cared about, and not isolated. ...Being understood is different than being “fixed”.

He is not only our ultimate helper but our model as well. Only in him do we learn how to interact with people in need.” **Paul Tripp**, “Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands”, p. 166

To be in touch with the Sympathy of Christ is to receive something that should begin to characterize us toward others—as we are being conformed to the Image of Christ! ...Similar to—“Love one another, as I have loved you” ...“Forgive one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you” ... “Sympathize with each other, as Christ your high priest has sympathized with you”

“knowing fundamental things about people in general should not be confused with knowing the particular individuals God has sent your way. ... No two people have exactly the same story. People are at once all the same and dramatically different. ... Think of the endless variety of personalities or the diverse and unexpected ways different minds work. Some of us are mechanical, while others (like me) have neither the mind to figure out how things work nor the hands to fix them. Some of us are almost coldly rational, while others feel their way through life. Imagine the differences in life experience between a tall man and a short one, between someone who is obese and someone who is very thin. Think of the great difference in life experience between a man and a woman, or a thinker and a doer. The range of God’s creativity is vast.... Each person’s story is a labyrinth of details that makes each one dramatically different from another.... We must seek to know one another in a way that recognizes God both as our creator (universal human truths) and as our Sovereign Lord (the unique, individual details). This will not only make us thankful that we come armed with the truths of Scripture, but it will also drive us to know well the particular person God has sent our way.” **Paul Tripp**, “Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands”, p. 169

...**BUT ...for us to be able to "do sympathy" with each other—We Need to have "Considered the Sympathy of Jesus"!!**

Matt 9:35-38 *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

...sympathy by its nature, contains elements of understanding and nearness or personal engagement

... what attracts us to sympathy is the sense of being understood and drawn near to in an hour, pain, confusion, isolation, etc.

John 11:32-35 *Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."³⁵ Jesus wept.*

— Does Jesus Ever Just Weep with You?

Jesus Gets Us!