

## Jesus Is a Great and Compassionate High Priest

(Hebrews 4:14-16)

### Introduction:

1. According to 2 Peter 3:18, God wants His people to grow in the knowledge of His Son.
2. To increase our knowledge of the Lord we must go to the proper source [the Scriptures -- John 5:39] for information.
3. In our lesson we are especially concerned with increasing our knowledge of the Lord's priesthood.
4. In the verses we are studying (Hebrews 4:14-16), Jesus is shown to be:
  - a. a great High Priest
  - b. a compassionate High Priest.

### Discussion:

- I. FROM VS. 14, WE LEARN THAT JESUS IS A GREAT HIGH PRIEST
  - A. This can be seen when we compare Jesus to the Jewish high priest.
    1. (Hebrews 5:1-4) The Jewish high priest:
      - a. was a man (vs.1a)
      - b. offered gifts and sacrifices for sins (vs.1b)
      - c. had compassion on the ignorant and on those out of the way (vs.2)
      - d. made offerings for the sins of others and for himself (vs.3)
      - e. was called of God (vs.4).
    2. Jesus is shown to be a greater High Priest in that:
      - a. He is the Son of God (4:14)
      - b. He offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice once for all (7:27)
      - c. He has compassion on others because He was tempted as a man (2:17-18)
      - d. He had no sin for which to offer a sacrifice (7:26)
      - e. He was called of God after the order of Melchisedec (5:10).
    3. When we study this comparison, we see that Jesus is a great High Priest.
  - B. His position also indicates that He is a great High Priest.
    1. He is passed into the heavens.
    2. (1:3) He is seated at the right hand of the Father.
    3. There He makes intercession for those who come to God by Him (7:25).
  - C. (vs.14b) Since Jesus is such a great High Priest, we need to listen to this appeal: *"let us hold fast our profession."*
  - D. In addition to being a great High Priest, . . .
- II. WE LEARN FROM VS. 15-16 THAT JESUS IS A COMPASSIONATE HIGH PRIEST

- A. He is compassionate because He is *"touched with the feeling of our infirmities."*
1. He is touched because He *"was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."*
  2. (Matthew 4:1-11) Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness.
  3. However, Jesus also experienced:
    - a. the pain associated with death
      - 1) of a family member -- John (Matthew 14:10-13)
      - 2) of a close friend -- Lazarus (John 11:35-36)
    - b. rejection
      - 1) by His disciples (John 6:66)
      - 2) by His family (John 7:5)
      - 3) by His countrymen (John 8:59)
    - c. betrayal by His own apostle (John 18:3-5)
    - d. unjust treatment (John 19:1-3)
    - e. being forsaken by His close friends (Matthew 26:56 -- *"Then all the disciples forsook Him, and fled"*).
- B. Since Jesus is such a compassionate High Priest, we need to listen to this appeal: "let us come unto His throne of grace."
1. We are to do so "boldly" [with undoubting confidence, courage, and assurance].
  2. At His throne we can find *"mercy"* and *"grace to help in time of need."*

Conclusion:

1. Jesus is truly a great and compassionate High Priest.
2. This should motivate:
  - a. those who are outside of Christ to become Christians
  - b. those who are Christians to be more dedicated to serving the Lord.
3. See Hebrews 7:25a