

The Story of Jesus
(Lesson 39)

Introduction:

1. In 2 Peter 3:18 we are instructed to grow in the knowledge of Christ.
2. To accomplish this growth we must search the Scriptures (John 5:39).
3. The Scriptures teach us in Hebrews 3:1 to *"consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus."*
4. In this lesson we are studying Hebrews 4:14-16 where 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 (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 carefully, we see that Jesus is indeed 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 the Father by Him (7:25).
 - C. (vs.14b) Since Jesus is such a great High Priest, we are given an 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. Following His baptism, Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11).
 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).
 - B. Since Jesus is such a compassionate High Priest, we are given another appeal -- we are encouraged to approach His throne of grace.
 1. We are to do so *"boldly"* [with undoubting confidence, courage, and assurance].
 2. At His throne of grace we can find *"mercy"* and *"grace to help in time of need."*