



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: May 30, 2021

Passage: Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Theme: Enduring Through Our Suffering High Priest

Context:

- God has spoken to us by his Son (1:1-3)
- Jesus is greater than the angels (1:4-2:18)
 - Warning: Do not drift away because disobedience will be punished (2:1-4)
- Jesus is greater than Moses and Joshua (3:1-4:13)
 - Warning: Do not be hardened by unbelief because God's rest is for the believing (3:7-4:13)
- Jesus is greater than the Levitical priesthood (4:14-5:10; see also 2:17-3:8)

Main Idea: The way forward for the people of God is to *boldly* and *perpetually* trust in Christ's high priestly work of atonement (purification), mediation, and intercession.

Outline:

1. Jesus has made the way for us – *cling to our confession of faith* (4:14; see also 1:3)
2. Jesus is able to sympathize (suffer with) our weaknesses because he has shared in them to the fullest extent possible, yet never submitted to sin (4:15)
3. Jesus gives us open access to the throne of grace so that he might give us mercy and grace – *approach him boldly* (4:16)

4. Jesus was appointed by God to be our High Priest (5:1-6) – *trust God's provision*
5. Jesus is gentle with sinners and sufferers because he was clothed with weakness (5:2; also 2:17) – *do not be timid in drawing near*
6. Jesus learned (practiced) obedience through suffering (5:7-10) – *expect the same*

Point: Jesus is the provision for believers to endure confidently by faith in his person (identity as the Son of God) and work (crucifixion and exaltation). God does not resent your weakness. Drawing near with confidence and boldness is the evidence that you trust Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Jesus give us confidence before God, who sees and perceives every thought and motive of our hearts? How does this encourage your heart?
2. How do you typically approach God? (With boldness? Confidently? Timidly? With reservation?)
3. What does your approach to God indicate about your *belief* or *unbelief* in Christ's person and work?]
4. How should these verses shape the way we confess sin?
5. Why are Jesus' sufferings essential to his role as our high priest? How does this instruct us in regard to our perspective of suffering?
6. In light of these verses, do you believe that God's heart is bent toward gentleness, mercy, and grace in his dealings with you? Is there unbelief that is being revealed? How can the body of Christ help you "not give up your confession of hope"?
7. How does Jesus as high priest shape the church's worship?

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