

# Jesus is Bigger than our Failures

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## SMALL GROUP NOTES

*Tom Shaw 2015*

### Outline

This Sunday we looked at a passage in Hebrews that again speaks of Jesus as our great high priest. But this time the emphasis is on his incredible sympathy rather than his strength. It is clear that the writer wants to encourage these Christians who clearly have been under pressure. It seems likely that for them their lives feel increasingly weak, things are going wrong and they face many people against them. In a nutshell... they feel like a failure. In this context knowing Jesus as our utterly amazing - one reliable source of true sympathy becomes incredibly important.

When in this place of feeling weak and bit like a "failure", we can either resort to coping or go to Christ.

In this passage two particular aspects of our great high priest's sympathy were looked at, the fact that his sympathy is:

- Gentle
- Genuine

In contrast to the apparent gentleness of the high priests, Jesus the great high priest never becomes hard and cold as it seems the community around them had become because of the newfound faith.

In contrast to the apparent genuineness of the high priests, Jesus the great high priest never has external fake sympathy but internal smugness. Neither does he use a confession for therapy, as the high priests may have done. His sympathy is the real deal.

*Read Hebrews ch 4:14 - 5:8*

### Questions for discussion

1. At times when you feel like a failure, in what ways can this affect your relationship with Christ?
2. How does knowing Jesus is our gentle high priest free us in overcoming the challenge of failure?
3. Why is it important that we grasp the genuineness of Jesus as our high priest for our own lives, church family & missionally?