



# SUNDAY MORNING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** Holding Fast to Our Great High Priest

**Passage:** Hebrews 4:14-16

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** Most believers do not fall because they stop believing in God, but because they stop clinging to Him. They do not deny Christ or abandon the Gospel. They simply loosen their grip. Seasons of weakness, guilt, temptation, and discouragement can make obedience feel impossible and change feel out of reach. Hebrews asks a question we cannot avoid. What do you do when you discover again that you are not enough? The answer is not self reliance or stronger resolve, but Christ. Seeing that we have a great High Priest, Jesus the Son of God, we are called to hold fast. When pressure rises and faith feels heavy, do not let go. Come boldly to the throne of grace. You have a High Priest who understands weakness and gives mercy when you need it most.

### I. We Must Hold Fast to Jesus Because He Alone Is Our Great High Priest (Verse 14a)

After God led Israel out of Egypt, He gave them a detailed pattern for worship. Sinful people could not approach a holy God however they pleased. God Himself defined the way.

God was teaching His people that forgiveness is never cheap, and reconciliation with a holy God always requires blood.

Without the blood, there was no access, no forgiveness, and the High Priest could not stand in God's presence.



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Scripture calls Him the Great High Priest. This matters deeply, because it means your salvation is settled.

### **II. We Must Hold Fast to Jesus Because He Is Touched by Our Weaknesses (Verse 15a)**

Jesus did not become sinful, bitter, or self-doubting, but He entered fully into human limitation, pressure, exhaustion, and sorrow. As our Creator, He understands exactly how weakness presses upon the people He made.

We often assume holiness requires distance and that weakness disqualifies closeness. Hebrews says the opposite. Compassion invites nearness.

We can say, “Jesus, I am weak here,” and know that His response will not be rejection, disappointment, or withdrawal, but mercy.

### **III. We Must Hold Fast to Jesus Because He Has Faced the Full Weight of Temptation (Verse 15b)**

Jesus understands temptation, not because He gave in, but because He endured it.

We are tempted to take control instead of trusting God because waiting feels unbearable.

Temptation is never a reason to withdraw from your High Priest, it is a reason to run toward Him.

### **IV. We Must Hold Fast to Jesus Because He Alone Was Without Sin (Verse 15c)**

Jesus was tempted, but He never sinned. Every other priest had to offer a sacrifice for himself. Jesus never did. Because He was without sin, He could offer Himself.



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We endure by clinging to the truth that Jesus has already done perfectly what we never could.

You come and hold fast, not because you are worthy, but because He is. That is not a small difference. That is the difference that changes everything.

### V. We Must Hold Fast to Jesus Because He Opens the Way to the Throne of Grace (Verse 16)

A throne of grace means the place we expect judgment, we receive help.

Why do we wait so long to come? The answer is not that grace is unavailable. It is that we forget who our High Priest is.

You are not told to come because you have overcome. You are told to come because He has.

**Conclusion:** When a climber falls, it is rarely because the rope fails, but because the grip loosens. Hebrews was written to keep that from happening. If you are here without Christ, the call is simple and urgent. Stop trusting yourself and come to Jesus. He is the Mediator, the sacrifice, and the High Priest who invites you to receive mercy. And for the believer, do not loosen your grip. When guilt whispers, come boldly. When weakness presses in, cling tighter. You are not holding an idea, but a Person. Your High Priest has gone before you, stands for you now, and will never fail you. Hold fast to Him. He is enough, and He always will be.

