

Hebrews Pt 7

Central Question:

How does Hebrews 4:14–16 encourage us to approach Jesus in our weakness and need?

I. Opening and Context

Key Scripture: Hebrews 4:14–16

Brief context: Sermon continues the book of Hebrews; theme of Christ as High Priest develops from earlier chapters (Hebrews 2:17; 3:1) and extends through chapter 10.

Purpose: To show both the greatness and the compassion of Jesus so listeners can draw near to God with confidence.

II. Exposition: “We Have a Great High Priest” (Hebrews 4:14)

- Phrase focus: “Great” and “Son of God”
- Contrast with Levitical priesthood and Day of Atonement sacrifices
- Christ’s unique work: once-for-all sacrifice, propitiation, reconciliation
- Cross-reference ideas: John 1:29 (Lamb of God); Romans 5 (propitiation and reconciliation)

III. Exposition: “Passed into the Heavens” (Hebrews 4:14)

- Meaning: Jesus is risen and exalted, not remaining in the tomb
- Practical implication: Our intercessor is alive and seated at God’s right hand (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34)

IV. Exposition: “Touched with the Feelings of Our Infirmities” (Hebrews 4:15)

- Jesus sympathizes because He was tempted in every way yet without sin
- Examples mentioned: temptation, sickness, guilt, spiritual attack, depression

- Gospel illustration used: Jesus and the woman delivered from demons (Mary Magdalene example)

V. Invitation: “Let Us Come Boldly to the Throne of Grace” (Hebrews 4:16)

- Definition of “boldly”/parrēsia: approach openly, without concealment
- Promise: obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need
- Practical encouragement: bring present struggles—work, school, temptation, guilt—to Jesus

VI. Theological and Pastoral Applications

- Jesus as Mediator: one mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5)
- No need for human intermediaries; Christ’s finished work is sufficient
- Mercy and grace are abundant and renewed daily (Lamentations 3:22–23; Psalm 30:5)

VII. Practical Takeaways and Follow-along Prompts

- Hold fast your confession: What do you believe about Jesus right now?
- Name one struggle you need mercy for and bring it to the throne of grace
- Remember Jesus’ sympathy: How does knowing He was tempted but without sin change your approach to Him?
- Consider the assurance of Christ’s intercession: What hope does His priestly ministry give you for the week ahead?

VIII. Gospel Invitation

- Simple call: If you have not trusted Christ’s sacrifice and lordship, consider believing and accepting His forgiveness
- Immediate steps suggested: come forward, pray, or make a private confession to receive mercy and grace

IX. Suggested Scripture References for Further Study

Hebrews 2:17; Hebrews 3:1; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:11–14; Hebrews 10:11–14; John 1:29; Romans 5; 1 Timothy 2:5; Lamentations 3:22–23

Closing Prompt for the Listener

- Take a moment now to quietly name one need and, with confidence, present it to Jesus—the great High Priest who intercedes for you.