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*Like Us, Not Like Us*

Pastor Gregg Brenes

**We have a standing invitation to be in God's presence.**

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

- One of the greatest treasures we undervalue is the presence of God.

**How do you get in God's presence?**

After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain... Exodus 19:2-3

- You climb—to approach God and be in his presence requires effort.

As our great high priest, Jesus is the perfect person we need to fully enter God's presence. (Hebrews 4:14-15)

- Jesus is *like us*.
- Jesus is *not like us*.
  - Jesus has both the experience to relate to us and the power to save us.

As our great high priest, Jesus saves us from the things that keep us from God's presence. (Hebrews 4:16)

- Reject apathy to let God ignite desire.
- Refuse timidity to approach God with boldness.
- View need as God's invitation to receive His mercy and grace.

**Let's Connect**

- What aspects of Jesus' humanity have you not considered before?

**Let's Talk About It**

God's grace transforms our daily devotional life from a religious obligation to an invitation to come into God's presence. We come into God's presence through a perfect high priest who is completely *like us* and *not like us*. He is personal and approachable, and at the same time, Jesus offers us a way to live powerfully over sin and grow into His likeness.

Hebrews 4:14-16; Exodus 19:2-3; Hebrews 7:15-19; Hebrews 10:19-25

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Why do we often undervalue the presence of God in our lives? How do you identify with the 'crazy cycle' pastor Gregg described—*We get comfortable, wander away, get scared, come back, and then repeat*?
- Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How does knowing that Jesus is 'like you' but also 'not like you' give you the confidence to approach God? What beliefs do you struggle with that keep you from accepting Christ's invitation to come near? How can you replace those thoughts with God's truth?
- Read Exodus 19:2-3. Do you have a daily time with God? If so, what does that time look like? How could making an effort to spend time with God every day make a big difference in your life?
- Through time in God's presence, God calls us out from apathy and timidity to greater desire and boldness. How have you seen this in your own life? What would it look like for you to approach God with greater confidence?

**Take a Step**

- What step can you take to receive and respond to God's gracious invitation to confidently approach His presence?

**Here's My Prayer**

Lord, thank You for inviting me to be in Your presence. Your grace has made a way for me to have a relationship with You. Help me to hear Your voice and confidently draw near to You in the darkest times and in my joyful moments.