

Hebrews 4:14-16 Our Great High Priest

**Well, today is fathers' day! - Blessings on the dads
Being a Dad is a blessing – many smiles –**

Blessing – Dad of Graduates – Blessing

Our gift to Dads today - Root Beer Floats -

**Fathers' day gift – still looking
Grilling tools is top on the list -**

“The Grill Alert”

A wireless belt-clip monitor, announces when just about any meat is perfectly cooked. \$70.00

Or how about the Brand your meet – Prepared by.....
\$30.00

Does Dad have a hard time waking up in the mornings?

The Clocky alarm clock rolls off his bedside table when the buzzer sounds... and keeps rolling until he catches it.
\$55.00

At the very least get dad a card – try to not make the same mistake as a young man, 16 year old Ryan.

Ryan was out late with friends one night.

Suddenly he realized it was Father's Day and he had neglected to buy a card for our dad.

After much searching, Ryan located an open store, but was disappointed to find only **two cards left on the rack.**

Selecting one, he brought it home and, somewhat sheepishly, presented it to our father.

Upon opening it, Dad read this message: **“You've been like a father to me.”** He looked at Ryan, puzzled.

“Well, Dad,” Ryan said, “it was either that or the card that said, **‘Now that I'm a father too!’**”

Would you please turn in your Bibles with me this morning to Hebrews 4:14-16

A) Today we are going to conclude – Hebrews Ch.4 – Subject of Our great High Priest

B) As we look at this text this today – I want us to consider what I believe are **two predominant things that Christian men struggle with.**

C) Actually all Christians men and women can struggle with these things.

D) But in my years of counseling and meeting with men – Prevalent struggle.

1) Not talking about Porn.

The reason I want to look at this today is not so much because it is Fathers day –

A) but because our text this morning beautifully presents an answer to those struggles.

D)A great word of encouragement!

1)**Grasp it/ believe it/ walk in it/** – this can revolutionize your walk with Christ.

Read V.14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Consider two Common Struggles of men!

A)One is self dependency and the other is failure. Often go together.

Aa)Start with self dependency

B)Men struggle to **not** lean on their own understanding/ rely upon our own strength/
1)or take matters into their own hands.

C)We struggle to not lean on our own knowledge experience and ingenuity.

D)**Why? We are Men** – Starting at a young age we are trained to not be Momma's boys

We are Trained to stand on our own two feet. – we are trained to be self sufficient.

A)**We are trained to be providers – we grow up preparing to leave the house**

B)**Make a name for ourselves – start a family.**

C)**Those are the normal expectations we have for our sons – RIGHT?**

When My Son went to Bible college in England people asked me – Are you sad!

A)**No! – Sure I was going to miss him – but we had been preparing him for that.**

B)**I literally expected him not to come home. – Meet and English girl get married – minister in England**

C)**Instead He met a girl from Maine – Came home – got married and **now is serving here****

1)**STOKED**

But had he stayed in England – hard yes – but I wouldn't have worried

A)**Now if one of my daughters goes away – different story – Worry – prayer life increase.**

B)**And I will until the right guy comes along to take care of them – **MY JOB!!! Right ?****

So as men we are trained – raised up to be self sufficient – raised up to be in control

A) Raised up to make it on our own – and that often bleeds over into our walks with the Lord.

B) Struggle of all believers **but especially Men** – we struggle with putting things in God's hands.

C) Jesus take the wheel is not a song in our Favorites of our ipods.

And even when it comes to our faith – Being a godly man/ husband/ father –

A) We often times find ourselves – trying to walk the walk and be who God has called us to be in our own strength.

B) How many of us – have been to a conference – been to a retreat –
1) got pumped up by the Lord and proceeded to come home with **our list and goals** of things that were going to Change.

C) Perhaps **you started well** – few weeks of making necessary changes – implementing principles conf.

D) We start doing *the Christian thing* – or we start doing ministry thing – or we start doing **the leading your family thing** - in our own energy.

Three Problems can happen when we do that.

#1 We can become very prideful when we are successful – Wow look at how I am doing ?

Usually we are only being successful in one or two areas and we over look the areas where we are still failing miserably

#2 **We can get very tired** – Trying to be a Christian husband, Dad, guy, in own strength is exhausting.

#3 We feel **condemned and discouraged** when we finally fail!

That is why it is so important for us to consider these verse in Hebrews this morning.

A) V. 14-15 address the first two problems and V.16 gives the answer to problem #3

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

B) Now this is 2nd time that Jesus is referred to as our **High Priest in the NT**

1) This is the major theme in the book of Hebrews. Ch.3 -13 mentions this term 17 times.

C) Now this takes us back to Ch. 2:17 when the writer of Hebrews first introduced us to the idea of Jesus as our High Priest.

The Context in Chapter 2 – Explaining why Jesus left heaven and came to earth as a man.

A) One reason was to pay the price for our sins. – He came to be **THE SACRIFICE**.

B) But He also came to be the High Priest – dual role – Priest – who offers the sacrifice

1) But He offered Himself as the sacrifice.

C) But He became a man so that He could relate to us.

Turn to Chapter two quickly

Hebrews 2:17-18

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid [**HELP – ASSIST**] those who are tempted.

This verse gives a summation of the priestly ministry of Jesus.

A) He became a man so that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest. { **Count on Him -**

B) Merciful = Compassionate! – Get in someone else's skin feel what feeling. Walk in their Sandals.

1) Jesus walked in our Sandals – shared in man's battle with the flesh – Human frailty

He came to make propitiation – Satisfy the requirement for sin.

A) He became a man and was tempted – so that He could – Help – come along side those who are tempted.

E) Our High priest is there every day – to help us!

1) Shower us with Mercy and to show himself **FAITHFUL and strong our behalf.**

Ch.3-4 Highlighted the faithfulness of our High Priest in establishing a complete Rest for the believer.

As we come to v.14 of Chapter 4: He returns to this subject of our High Priest

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

A) To these Jewish believers who were struggling with the idea of going back –

B) He says **Hold fast** – YOU HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST – JESUS THE SON OF GOD, who has passed through the heavens.

C) Hold fast to the one who is faithful to Hold on to you!

Now we have noted from Leviticus 16 how the High Priest was the only one who could enter the Holy of Holies – Glory of God ONE DAY A YEAR –

A) Sacrifice for himself – for the people – sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat – Holy of Holies.

B) He didn't stay there Long! –

C) To enter the Holy of Holies, the priest had to pass through three areas in the Tabernacle or the Temple.

1) He took the blood and went through **the door into the outer court,**

2) through **another door into the Holy Place,**

3) and then through **the veil into the Holy of Holies.**

D) He did not sit down or delay. As soon as the blood was applied he left and did not return for another year.

Every year, year after year, another Yom Kippur was necessary.

A) Between these yearly sacrifices—every day, day after day—thousands of other sacrifices were made.

B) The process was never ended, never completed, because the priesthood was not perfect and the sacrifices were not perfect.

C) Jesus, our great High Priest, after He had made the one-time, perfect sacrifice on the cross, also passed through three areas.

Our text says **When He passed through the heavens,**

A) he went through the first heaven (the atmosphere), the second heaven (outer space),

B) And into the third heaven (God's abode;

1) Jesus went to where God Himself, not simply His glory, dwells. - **the holiest of all holies.**

C) But Jesus did not have to leave. His sacrifice was made once for all time.

1) The sacrifice was perfect and the High Priest was perfect, and He sat down for all eternity at the Father's right hand

D) Glorious truth our High Priest sits in heaven now – His work of redemption is done – Atonement Done

But not His work as High Priest is not Done!

A) He ever lives to Help us – Assist us – come along side of us – Empower us – Pray for us - this life.

B) He is there to help us come along side of us. Empower us.

1) And **He GETS US!!!! – Totally!**

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin

C) Many people picture the Lord as being far removed from Human life & concerns. **Not true!!!**

Jesus Our great High Priest not only is perfectly merciful and faithful but also perfectly understanding.

A) He has an unequalled capacity for sympathizing with us in every danger, in every trial, in every situation that comes our way,

B) Because He has been through it all Himself.

C) Physical weakness – tired – fatigued – felt physical pain.

D) Also emotional pain: Knows what it is like to be rejected.

1) Grieved –

John MacArthur:

“Weaknesses does not refer directly to sin, but to feebleness or infirmity. It refers to all the natural limitations of humanity, which, however, include liability to sin. Jesus knew firsthand the drive of human nature toward sin. His humanity was His battleground. It is here that Jesus faced and fought sin. He was victorious, but not without the most intense temptation, grief, and anguish.”

E) And He knows what it is like to be tempted!

Tempted in *all points* literally - each, every, any, all, the whole, all things, everything

Does that mean that every test that a human being ever faced Jesus was tempted in all of them? NO!

A) The Bible makes it clear that our battle is three fold –

B) We battle the **world, our flesh and the Devil.**

EVERY TEMPTATION falls into that 3 fold realm

1) The Devil uses the world and things in the world to tempt our flesh.

C) Jesus was tested according to that same 3 fold battle. –

1) Satan used the things of this world to appeal to his flesh – Stone to bread –

2) Save yourself skip the cross.

D) “Yea but his battle wasn’t as intense as ours – like toy arrows - shooting at a grown man.”

Actually His divinity made His temptations and trials immeasurably harder for Him to endure than ours are for us.

Let me give an illustration to help explain how this can be true.

We experience pain when we are injured, sometimes extreme pain.

But if it becomes too severe, we will develop a temporary numbness, or we may even faint or go into shock.

Our bodies have ways of turning off pain when it becomes too much to endure.

People vary a great deal in their pain thresholds, but we all have a breaking point. In other words, the amount of pain we can endure is not limitless.

We can conclude, therefore, that there is a degree of pain **we will never experience**, because our bodies will turn **off our sensitivity in one way or another**—perhaps even by death—before we reach that point.

A similar principle operates in temptation.

A) There is a degree of temptation that we may never experience simply because, no matter what our spirituality, we will succumb before we reach it.

B) But Jesus Christ **had no such limitation**. Since He was sinless, He took the full extent of all that Satan could throw at Him.

C) He had **no shock system**, no weakness limit, to turn off temptation at a certain point.

1) Since He never succumbed, He experienced every temptation to the maximum.

D) And He experienced **it as a man**, as a human being. In every way He was tempted as we are, and more.

1) The only difference was that He never sinned.

E) So we must resist the lie – Jesus doesn't understand – He does – Sympathize

1) But even better the victorious one is there to help

Now knowing that is the case The triumphant one is there to help us.

A) Why do we continue to insist on doing things our own way?

B) Why don't we call on Him – why are we not more prone to look to him.

C) **I have had so many times** – where I have personally determined.

1) I am not going to worry about this today – by noon stressed out of my mind.

D) I have said to myself – I am not going to get angry with that person – **5 minutes – ticked off**.

There have been so many occasions in my walk with Christ where - The harder I try the worse – I fail -

Feel like - Romans 7:14-20

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

Have you ever been there?

A) That Struggle - So thankful Paul continued

Romans 7:24-25

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!

B) Jesus my high Priest not only delivered me from the Penalty of sin – at the cross

1) But He continues to deliver us – from the Power of sin and the flesh

C) If we will look to Him! – Cry out to Him!

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

***Poor in Spirit* – realize your utter dependency upon the Lord for everything. – Lord help**

A) Poor and spirit is confessing – being real – Lord you know I lack patience help me

B) Lord you know I don't understand how SHE thinks– help me!!!!

C) Lord I admit I am worried!!! – help me.

D) Lord I am prone to get angry – Help me!

1) Confess your weakness – He is there to help

Theirs is the Kingdom – all the resources of the King are for me. - Why wouldn't I tap into that.

A) Our High Priest is quick to come to our aid – bring comfort and care!

A) Now there are certain things I don't think Jesus is there to help us with.

B) Example: **PC basketball – come on Rob** –

1) Ok – Now because of bad knee bad hip – I always look to guard the other teams worst guy.

C) Reincarnation of Larry Bird – the Dirk of my day

Jesus was not there to help me!

A) I actually think – He was trying to tell me not to play. – think I heard that.

B) Hurt my knee – 2 weeks later really hurt it

C) Not going to make you a better basketball player

But that night meeting – Pastor Bob turn and Pray for each other – turn around see my friend Bruce – haven't **seen him in a year haven't talked** –

I know nothing about what is going on in his life and he says – **“You guys can pray for me my 21 yr old son died a month ago.”** - Suddenly I lost it. Suddenly all my petty problems – insignificant

But I got to talk to Bruce the next day and he shared with me – how great the Lord has been to get them through this trial. – His High Priest has been faithful

Jesus gets death and it's pain!

A) Tomb of Lazarus – wept – it wasn't supposed to be this way.

B) Death is the result of sin!

C) Jesus our high Priest is there for us – guys

1) He understands our struggles –

D) He can sympathize with our weaknesses!

He is near to the broken hearted!

Resist the proud – but he gives grace to the Humble.

A) I need all the grace I can get – He says my grace is sufficient my power is made perfect in your weakness

B) Paul heard that He said – I am going to boast in my weakness – when I am weak – He is strong!

1) His strength is perfect.

C) Brothers and sisters can I encourage you- Don't be proud – thinking I got this – I don't need anyone's help.

D) Humble yourself – boast in your weakness – tell him Lord I don't understand my wife – help me!

Tell him- Lord I don't know how to parent these kids – help me!

A) Lord **I don't know how to get along** with these difficult people – Help me.

B) Lord I am having a hard time trusting in your for my provision – help me!

C) Whatever the area – confess it and call out to him!

And brothers – when you fail – when you give into the weakness of your flesh.

A) Remember there is a throne of grace.

B) This is the 2nd problem men have – they fail – condemned – quit –

1) I am done – failure – what is the use – never going to get this right – I AM DONE

C) Don't walk with God – settle for mediocrity

Guys don't do that – recognize – probably trying to run in your own strength

A) Even if you weren't flesh gets the best of you – know this – **THERE IS A THRONE OF GRACE**

B) Run there – V.16 **Let us therefore come boldly** With confidence

C) **to the throne of grace**, Not condemnation / no ..

1) Not going to hear – I did why can't you.....

D)Not going to hear – YOU AGAIN!!!

1)Not going to hear – ‘how many times’

E)Forgiven and forgotten.

No it is a throne of grace - - Throne where we receive mercy.

A)Mercy is not getting what we do deserve – we deserve – rejection/ lecture/ punishment.

B)We receive Grace – God’s blessing riches and resources

C)We receive timely help –for the need at hand!

Run to the throne

Worried stressed – carrying on your own –tired
Failed –

Join me today at the throne of Grace –

Help me Jesus