

Jesus, Our Great High Priest
Hebrews 4:14-16

Introduction:

- A. What words or names come to your mind when you hear the name Jesus?
- B. In our text, the writer of Hebrews is going to show us an important name/title of Jesus and why such a title is so significant for us today.

Jesus is Our Great High Priest (4:14)

- A. The Hebrew writer is writing to Christians who are being tempted to give up their faith in Jesus. Throughout the book of Hebrews the writer demonstrates over and over how Jesus is better.
- B. The high priest was of great importance in the Old Testament religious system (Leviticus 16; Heb. 5:1).
- C. Jesus is not just any high priest, he is a GREAT high priest. He is superior to all the other high priests.

What Makes Jesus the Great High Priest (4:14-15)

- A. His Prominence - "Who has passed through the heavens" (v. 14)
 - 1. Earthly high priests could only enter into the presence of God by passing into the most holy place of the temple one time each year.
 - 2. Jesus offered up himself as a sacrifice and now sits in the very presence of God daily and ministers for us (Heb. 10:10-14; Acts 1:9-11). His role as high priest is eternal (Heb. 7:23-24).
- B. His Compassion – "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses" (v. 15)
 - 1. Jesus feels our struggles. He has been there himself (Isa. 53:3).
 - 2. Jesus has had the same struggles/trials (Jn. 6:66; Mt. 8:20; Jn. 11:35; Mt. 26:47-50; Mt. 26:56).
- C. His Understanding – "But one who in every respect has been tempted as we are yet without sin" (v. 15)
 - 1. While living as man, Jesus faced the same temptations we have had to face (I Jn. 2:15-17).
 - 2. Jesus knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21); he committed no sin (I Pet. 2:22). He was different (Heb. 7:26-27).

The Significance of Jesus As Our High Priest (4:16)

- A. We now have access to God on a daily basis.
- B. Is Jesus' role as the great high priest reflected in our lives?
- C. Three questions that will help us answer this question:
 - 1. Do we pray persistently (Col. 4:2; I Thess. 5:17)?
 - 2. Do we pray boldly (Heb. 7:25; Jam. 5:16)?
 - 3. Do we pray believing God will hear and respond (Acts 12:1-16; I Jn. 5:14)?

Conclusion:

- A. Have you been tempted to give up? Do not give up on Jesus.
- B. It is through Jesus that we have the daily opportunity to approach God's throne of grace.