

Revive

Hebrews 4:14-5:3

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested[a] as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **5.1** Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. **2** He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness...

REFLECTION

We continue to explore the power of faith in Christ alone as we journey through the book of Hebrews. Paul reminds us that because of the incarnation there is no weakness or sorrow for which Jesus cannot sympathize. As you read verse 16, think about how Jesus' sacrifice allows us to "approach the throne of grace with boldness." **What does this mean to you? In what areas of your life do you especially need Jesus' mercy and grace right now?**

According to Paul, we too are called to be priests. We can find great freedom in the fact that it is not our goodness that gives credibility to the gospel, but our weakness. When we are the recipients of grace our response is to want to share it, as described by Justin Bieber in a [recent article](#). **When have you experienced this?**

"Hurt people hurt people—you know? And there's a quote; I'm trying to remember it. I don't know if it's biblical, if it's in the Bible. But I do remember this quote: *The comforted become the comforters*. I don't know if you've heard that before. But I really do feel comforted. I have a wife who I adore, who I feel comforted by. I feel safe. I feel like my relationship with God is wonderful. And I have this outpouring of love that I want to be able to share with people, you know?"

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God*. Because of the grace we receive from others, gentleness becomes our guide as we take on the priestly role of comforter. A posture of gentleness also enables us to approach situations with less judgment and more curiosity. **How does it revive your spirit when someone is curious with you? What would it look like for us to check our own pre-determinations and live with more curiosity?**

Praise be to You, Heavenly Father, the One who comforts us. Remind us of our priestly calling and help us to deal gently with others, in response to the grace you have so generously lavished upon us. Amen.