

# Pr Mark Turner: Our Sympathetic Saviour (22/8/20)

In every profession there are times when we will question our desire, zeal and even our life decisions. Doubt and discouragement plague us all.

**Hebrews 4:14-16** "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. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

**There are two exhortations in this passage:**

1. Hold fast our confession.
2. Come boldly to God through prayer.

Interestingly enough, these same exhortations occur later in the book of Hebrews in the reverse order.

Hebrews 10:22 - "let us draw near with a true heart."

Hebrews 10:23 - "let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering."

**The book of Hebrews is about perseverance:**

- Hebrews 2:1
- Hebrews 3:6
- Hebrews 3:14
- Hebrews 6:12
- Hebrews 6:4-6
- Hebrews 10:26
- Hebrews 10:36
- Hebrews 12:1
- Hebrews 12:2,3

Why hold fast to our confession?

## **1. We have a perfect priest (Hebrews 4:14)**

This was meaningful to the audience of the book of Hebrews because unlike the faulty priests who had represented them in the past, Jesus was a better, no perfect, representative.

Jesus, our perfect priest, has passed through the heavens and now stands in the presence of God on our behalf. His plea is perfect. He belongs there and, through Him, so do we.

## **2. He is a perfect priest because He was a perfect person (Hebrews 4:15)**

Just like it is no fun working for a boss who doesn't understand our role, Jesus would not have been an adequate priest had He not been able to understand us.

Hebrews 2:10-18 tells us that it was because of this 'becoming one of us' that He was qualified to be our Priest. Can He really relate to me though?

In Gethsemane, Jesus felt the guilt and shame that belongs to each one of us. Hebrews 12 tells us that He chose to endure the cross. Why did He have to "endure?" Because He did not want to do it. His will, in this moment, was tempted to be at odds with His Father's will.

Though tempted to doubt and quit, Jesus chose to endure anyway. This qualifies Him to be the kind of priest who understands us.

"No one can develop freely in this world and find a full life without feeling understood by at least one person." *Paul Tournier, To Understand Each Other, pg 29*

## **3. As a perfect priest He makes perfect provision (Hebrews 4:16)**

If there is no one else that you feel can really relate to you, remember that Jesus understands you. He wired you in that way. He feels your pain and provides for your need.

In Matthew 6, Jesus gives what we all "The Lord's Prayer." In Hebrews, Paul says that it is because of Jesus' perfect priesthood that we can come boldly to the Father with the prayer "forgive us our debts." Because Jesus is our faithful and merciful High Priest we can have confidence, knowing that His provision is enough.