

Jesus Christ Our Great High Priest
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10

¹⁴ Since then 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 is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16, ESV)

Introduction

Have you ever wondered if the contemporary American culture most of us live in makes our relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit a little more difficult to understand than the cultural perspective of someone from India, Japan, Korea, Nigeria or Samoa? Just as fish don't know that they're wet until they're hooked or gaffed out of the water, we are probably pretty unaware of our cultural lenses. In a culture where we don't necessarily give more honor to someone who's older or more closely related, for example, we can adopt a worldview where even people who are famous for being famous can wield an inordinate influence. We may have to take off our cultural lenses and put on Son-glasses to better recognize Christ as our Great High Priest.

1. What does it mean to have Christ as our Great High Priest? (Hebrews 4:14-16)

- a) "A great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God" (He4:14).
- b) Approaching God's throne boldly and with confidence of receiving mercy and grace.

2. Christ was called by the Father to become our Great High Priest. (Hebrews 5:1-6)

- a) Who was Aaron, who was Melchizedek, and why might this be important to you and I?
- b) How is Christ similar yet different from these two forerunners of the priesthood?

3. Christ is the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. (Hebrews 5:7-10)

- a) "Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered" (v.8).
- b) "Being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (v.9).

Conclusion

Christ's identity and relationship with the Father, Holy Spirit and His shared nature, experience with temptation and relationship with those who believe make Jesus truly unique. While some might argue from a 21st century pop culture perspective that Christ is not more unique than the greatest comic book superheroes, perhaps the question has to be asked: who influenced who? How can we explain the significance of Christ? How can people experience this priestly relationship with Christ? And why does it matter that Jesus Christ has been made our Great High Priest by God the Father?

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

1. Slowly and carefully reread Hebrews 4:14-16. What is the Word and Spirit are saying to you?
2. According to this passage of Scripture, what makes Christ the Great High Priest?
3. What did the Word and Spirit of God remind you of or teach you anew?

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