



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

JESUS IS ... JESUS AS SEEN IN HEBREWS

JESUS IS ... *EMPATHETIC* HIGH PRIEST

Sermon by Bob Ross

May 7, 2017

This week Pastor Bob continued our series in the book of Hebrews. The series is called "Jesus Is ..." because Hebrews presents an uncompromising picture of Jesus as God. He reminded us that Hebrews has a tone of urgency because there were people in this group of Christians who were suffering and experiencing temptation to drift, or fall away. As we as 21st century believers experience that temptation, the answer is the same now as it was then – know who Jesus is. Greg Guthrie says that "our endurance ultimately will depend on the health of our relationship to Christ and our obedience to the Word." In today's message, Bob showed how we can see Jesus as our empathetic high priest – and how that can help us to endure.

The passage was Hebrews 2:17-18. Bob used The Amplified Version which says that "it was essential" that Jesus become a man. In other words, Jesus had to "become who he did." The author is talking about the incarnation. Jesus became fully human so that He could experience temptation and suffering. Not only did he experience it, He endured it to the full extent because He did not give in! Jesus had to become a man for God's plan of redemption to succeed.

Because Jesus became who He did, He was able to become who He is – our merciful and faithful high priest. If Jesus had not become human, He would not have satisfied the qualification for being a high priest. But because He did become human, that experience equipped Him to be merciful and faithful as our high priest. Pastor Bob pointed out that in the Old Testament the high priest stood in the gap between God and the nation of Israel in matters related to sin. In the same way, Jesus did and does stand in the gap on our behalf.

Becoming a high priest allowed Jesus to then do what he did. The Amplified Version says that he "wiped away the sin, satisfying divine justice, and providing a way of reconciliation between God and mankind." What an awesome description of the cross. Bob showed that this is why the curtain in the Temple closing off The Holy of Holies was torn in two from top to bottom when Jesus died. God came down to man to give man a way to God!

BECAUSE of all this, Jesus can do what He does – help us when we are tempted. Jesus gets it! Because He suffered temptation to the fullest extent as a human, He understands our struggle. But as God, HE IS ABLE to help. We do not have to live defeated lives as believers. Jesus sits at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. Because He is in us through His Holy Spirit, we have all the power we need to live victorious lives that endure hardship, temptation and suffering.

E-CHECK: Embracing Intimacy With God

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read and reflect on Hebrews 2:17-18.

Why did Jesus have to become a man? Use a Bible with cross references to deepen your understanding of The Incarnation and what it meant for us.

Take the time to study the function of The High Priest in the Old Testament. Jesus as our High Priest will be a constant theme in the rest of our study of Hebrews, so it will benefit you to understand what that means.

Use The Amplified Version of the Bible and review the description of what Jesus accomplished in His death. Does it help you to gain new insights? After you read it, do you have any doubt that Jesus is the only way to God?

Take the time to reflect on the FACT that Jesus is able to help in times of temptation. Look up 1 Cor. 10:13. Do you see one of the ways that Jesus can help?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Does it help you to know that Jesus is empathetic to YOUR temptations and suffering? What does it mean to you, and for your Christian walk that Jesus experienced temptation and suffering?

Think through the fact that Jesus is merciful and faithful as our High Priest. What are you struggling with today that you can take to Jesus and experience His mercy?

Look again at The Amplified Version's description of Jesus' work of atonement (verse 17). Apply each of those 3 items to yourself. My sin had been wiped away, etc How can this encourage you to endure?

Do you believe that Jesus is ABLE?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

In your small group or with your family, review the contents of this message. Share a time where you experienced immediate assistance from Jesus in a time of temptation. Share a time when you did not go to him and instead gave in. What were the results of each?

KEY POINT:

Because Jesus experienced temptation and suffering, He is our empathetic High Priest. He gets it.

RESOURCES:

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem