

“Our Great Sympathizer!”

Hebrews 2:16-18

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

April 6, 2025

Introduction

- Some doctors have great “bed-side” manners; others do not.
- In a counselor we look for someone who can sympathize when we cry for help.
- Mankind in general is hurting spiritually as a result of sin.
 - Genesis 6:5-- *“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*
- The help we needed came in the person of Jesus Christ, who is...
 - The captain of our salvation
 - Our sanctifier
 - And Satan’s conqueror

Our Great Sympathizer!

- Hebrews 2:16-18-- *“For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”*

A. His Specialty

- Hebrews 2:16-- *“For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. ”*
1. **He did not come to give aid angels, but to the “seed of Abraham”**
 - a) Not to the aide of the “seed of Adam”
 - b) We are the spiritual “seed of Abraham”
 - Galatians 3:29-- *“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*
 2. **Jesus Christ took on a human body.** He was made like us so to experience firsthand what it means to be human.
 - Hebrews 2:17-- *“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”*
 3. **Jesus Christ models the principle of “becoming all things to all men that He might by all means save some.”**
 - 1 Corinthians 9:19-23-- *“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.”*

B. His Sacred Office: Our High Priest

- Hebrews 2:17-- *"Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."*
1. **The position and privileges of the high priest under the Law**
 2. **Jesus Christ's exalted position as our mediator.**
 - 1 Timothy 2:5-- *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus".*
 3. **Two Quality as our High Priest** that sets Him apart from His Jewish counterparts
 - a. **He is our "merciful" High Priest.**
 - 1) Jewish High Priests were not to show emotions
 - 2) Jesus Christ feels what we feel.
 - Hebrews 4:15-- *"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."*
 - 3) This quality of Jesus is so important that it is put first in the sentence.
 - 4) Jesus Christ is the great sympathizer.
 - b. **He is our "faithful" High Priest in His service to God.**
 - 1) The Jewish high priests had a mixed track record when it comes to faithfulness to God.
 - a) A few sought to obey God and to faithfully lead the people in worship and service.
 - b) Many failed to provide the spiritual leadership and example.
 - c) It was the high priest in Jesus' day that failed to recognize Jesus as the Messiah and demanded His death.
 - 2) Jesus Christ was absolutely faithful in fulfilling the functions of a High Priest.
 4. **The Two Functions of a High Priest**
 - a. **To make atonement for the sins of the people**
 - Hebrews 2:17-- *"Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."*
 - 1) "propitiation"-- "to appease, to reconcile, to conciliate, to satisfy God's righteous demands or make "atonement" for one's sins.
 - 2) The "atonement" Christ makes is developed in Hebrews 9-10
 - b. **To aid those in need**
 - Hebrews 2:18-- *"For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted."*
 - 1) Jesus Christ Himself suffered when he was tempted.
 - a) "Temptation" or Testing in two ways in suffering
 - (1) To reveal and refine the true character
 - (2) To experience the lure of evil
 - b) Jesus Christ was subject to both these ways, yet He remain true to God. He thus can help those who are being tempted.
 - 2) Because Jesus Christ was tested like us, and passed the tests, he thus can sympathize with us and come to our aid with appropriate help.
 - Hebrews 4:15-16-- *"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize 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."*