

Draw Near; Hebrews 4:14-16

- I. Walls
 - a. We build up walls around ourselves, particularly to protect ourselves
 - b. Maybe we have loved and been hurt, so we love a little differently, so we don't get hurt
 - c. Maybe we don't give ourselves completely over the next time, but hold back
 - d. The bad thing about walls is that while people can't get in, we can't get out
 - e. "Draw near" – God wants us completely – to approach Him, to come into His presence
 - f. We can't do that from behind our wall – we have to learn to trust God completely
- II. Great High Priest
 - a. We have to know a little something about the person we are giving ourselves over to
 - b. The writer uses the term 'great' comparing Jesus to the Aaronic priesthood – the application is to any priesthood
 - c. Greatness of character
 - i. Hebrews 1:3 (ESV); He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
 - ii. Jesus is the Radiance of God's Glory – If God is the sun, the Jesus is the light that the sun produces
 - iii. The exact imprint – character (Jesus is the very character of God)
 - iv. Genesis 15:12–16 (ESV); ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."
 - v. From the very beginning God has been (and continues to be) a merciful and gracious God
 - 1. Providing salvation for mankind in the Garden (actually before the foundations of the world)
 - 2. Providing mercy to the Israelites over and over again from before they even became a nation
 - 3. Manifesting Himself in Jesus to walk this earth and experience the very same things (temptations) that His creation experience
 - 4. The heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1) and Jesus is that Glory

- vi. 2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV); In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - 1. Icon – living image, imprint
 - 2. The likeness of the presidents stamped on a coin
- d. Greatness of His work
 - i. While it may not be obvious to others, His work on this earth is the greatest ever known
 - ii. John 1:1–4 (ESV); ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - iii. John 1:14 (ESV); And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - iv. Hebrews 2:17–18 (ESV); Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.
- e. Jesus is the Great High Priest!
- III. Through the Heavens
 - a. To fully understand this we have to look at the Day of Atonement
 - i. Leviticus 16:6 (ESV); “Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house.
 - ii. Before the High Priest could ‘pass through’ the veil into the Holy of Holies he had to provide a sacrifice for sin
 - b. But Jesus, who started out in heaven, came to this earth to provide a sacrifice for sin
 - i. He had no need to provide a sacrifice for Himself since He was sinless
 - ii. He didn’t just pass through the veil – remember it was torn in two from top to bottom at His death – He passed through the heavens!
 - iii. Ephesians 4:10 (ESV); He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)
 - iv. Hebrews 7:26 (ESV); For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.
 - v. Jesus is now at the Father’s right hand with all power and authority
 - vi. Psalm 110:1 (ESV); The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”
 - c. Jesus’ work is truly the greatest!
- IV. The Son of God
 - a. We think in human terms and look at God as an earthly father and Jesus as an earthly son
 - b. But we know that is not correct

- c. We know that Jesus created all things as God spoke them into existence – hence, Jesus is The Word (John 1:3)
- d. He was with God in the beginning and He is God (John 1:1-2)
- e. He is the very character of God
- f. He completed the greatest work ever known
- g. He sits at the right hand of God
- h. Therefore, He is the Son of God

V. Draw Near

- a. On June 12th, 1987 Ronald Reagan gave a speech at the Bradenburg Gate in West Berlin
 - i. During this speech he said, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”
 - ii. But, of more importance to me, but little known or reported at the time, President Reagan also said, “Yes, across Europe, this wall will fall. For it cannot withstand faith; it cannot withstand truth. The wall cannot withstand freedom.”
- b. Whatever walls you have built cannot hold up against faith – they cannot hold up against truth (the Gospel) – and they cannot hold up against our freedom in Christ!
- c. We must tear down those walls and draw near to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith
- d. _____ (insert name), TEAR DOWN THAT WALL!