

sermon study summary

Trust In God

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On what basis do we place our trust in God when life is difficult and we are worried or fearful? We can trust in God because...

1. Jesus is our great high priest and He is alive. (Heb. 4:14). Sin created a barrier between God and the people, but God designed human priests to be mediators between God and man **“to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins”** (Hebrews 5:1). Old Testament priests offered animal sacrifices and shed their blood as a substitute for the sins of the people. This priestly system was inadequate, incomplete and temporary because the high priest was himself a sinner and had to offer sacrifices for his own sins as well as the sins of the people.

This whole system pointed forward to something greater, to Someone perfect and complete. It pointed to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our perfect High Priest. He is both the High Priest and the sacrifice for sin.

Unlike the other high priests that all died, Jesus lived and died and rose from the dead never to die again. That is why the whole Old Testament priesthood system is over. Jesus is the final priest. He is the final mediator between mankind and God because he will never die.

The OT priest entered the temple only once a year. The temple was just a shadow of the true Holy Place in heaven where God dwells. Now Jesus is with God in heaven where He has immediate access to God day and night.

What does this mean for us? Our sin should cause us to have sleepless nights. But God appointed His Son to be the great high priest to be the mediator between us and God and to also have His own body and blood to be the once-for-all sacrifice to take care of our biggest problem – sin.

When God the Father sees His Son’s sacrifice for our sin, He says, “That’s enough. The sin-debt has been paid. Justice has been carried out.” Because God solved our biggest problem – our sin problem – we can trust Him with everything else that we encounter in life.

2. Jesus is able to empathize with our weaknesses. He identifies with us as human beings because he **“has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.”** (Heb. 4:15). Therefore He can empathize with our weaknesses. He knows the full range of our emotions, our circumstances, our temptations, and our physical exhaustion. He knows. So hold on, don’t give in; help is on the way.

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (v. 16). What a wonderful invitation from God! Enter God’s presence. Approach Him, talk to Him, call on Him. And when you call out to God, you will find customized help for whatever you are going through because Jesus knows exactly what you are going through.

Don’t give up, don’t give in, you have good reason to trust in God. Hold firmly to faith. Don’t let go of God. Help is on the way. Answers will come just in time. Help will come just in time. Trust in God.

Instead of letting go of God, let go of your own understanding of what you think God is doing or not doing. Let go of your conclusions. Hold firmly to faith in God. **“Lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight”** (Proverbs 3:5-6).

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Have you ever had someone vouch for you or represent you? How did that make you feel?
2. Think about your best friend. Do you trust him or her completely? Why or why not?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read Hebrews 4:14-15 and Hebrews 5:1-3. Why do we need a high priest? What is his role? What qualifies Jesus to be more effective than other high priests?
4. Reflect on Hebrews 4:15. Do you really believe Jesus was tempted in every way that we are? How does Jesus being tempted in every way make God more approachable? How was Jesus able to be tempted and not sin?
5. Read Hebrews 4:16 and Proverbs 3:5-6. What does Hebrews 4:16 teach us about trust? What happens when we fully place our trust in God?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

6. How can we be more aware that Jesus is always interceding for us? Share practical strategies how we can be reminded of this truth.
7. Who in your life needs to be reminded that Jesus understands their struggle? Pray together in your group that you will support and encourage others this week.

THE WORD (NIV)

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 5:1-3

Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

In what areas are you struggling to trust God? Take a moment to write them down. Surrender these areas to God. Remember that you can approach His throne of grace with confidence, knowing that His mercy and grace are always available to help you in your time of need.

This week's writers: Elsa Henderson, Alfred Samson, Jem Ong, Jorel Quemuel