

Jesus, Our High Priest, Atoned for Our Sins and Helps Us Overcome Temptation

16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Hebrews 2:16-18

vs. 16

Helps

1. Not a strong enough translation. It really means:
“to take hold of”
“take by the **hand**”
2. Jesus came to take us by the hand

vs. 17

He had to...

1. There was no other way for God to accomplish His goal without coming to **us**
2. This is called the *Incarnation*, which means “*God with us*”
(*is it sounding like Christmas, anyone?*)

Made like us...

1. There are two ways in which Jesus is not like us:
 - He is both **God** and man.
 - He was without **sin**.
2. In every other way, Jesus experienced our condition

Merciful and faithful

1. The author was disputing Philo’s understanding of a High Priest:
 - Philo was a famous Jewish philosopher who tried to harmonize Greek & Jewish philosophy.
 - He lived between 20 BC and 50 AD, so he would have been familiar to those who read the book of Hebrews.
 - “*He (the high priest) will have his feelings and pity under control*” **Philo**
2. Jesus, the high priest, pours out His tears and love in **pleading** our case to God
 - He is a sympathetic intercessor.
 - He is full of passion and tenderness for us and our cause
 - A lawyer pleads a case for **profit**
 - Jesus pleads our case because He **loves** us

High Priest

1. A true priest represents the people to God
2. Jesus is the perfect high priest, therefore **acceptable** to God
3. God judges us on the basis of the quality of Jesus’ **character**

Make Atonement for the sins of people

1. Another blown call in the NIV!
 - Actually means to propitiate
 - Propitiate means to mollify the divine **wrath** of God.
2. We are **enemies** of God because of sin
 - Jesus is a messenger of peace sent from our camp to represent our case before God
 - The emphasis is on his personal character and therefore his ability to represent us before God

vs. 18

Suffered:

1. Jesus did not only suffer on the **cross**
2. He suffered the temptations and daily abuses and heartaches of life.

Helper of the tempted:

1. Jesus doesn't just bring revelation, he brings **help** (*story of person honking horn while I have motorcycle in tunnel: It would be much more helpful if you got out and helped me push*)
2. Other Religions
 - Eastern religion: God is **detached** from humanity. We are on our own to seek wisdom
 - Christianity: God **identifies** with humanity and helps us in our daily walk

You are welcome to use the following study as a part of your family or small group bible study this week.

Weekly Bible Study Re-read Hebrews 2:16-18

1. How has sin separated you from God?
2. What does a high priest do?
3. Why was it important that Jesus suffered? What type of suffering did he endure?
4. Why is Jesus the only one worthy of pleading our case to God?
5. How does Jesus help us during times of temptation?