

# Access Granted

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>Last week we looked at what it meant to be used to living in the world or wilderness and this is why we have such a hard time living for God.</p> <p>— We learned that God’s word being a 2 edge sword means 2 things.</p> <p>— — One, it means that God will be doing surgery on those that are His.</p> <p>— — — He cuts out parts that don’t need to be there, He repairs parts that are damaged, and brings us back to life.</p> <p>— — The second meaning of God’s word is a sharp 2 edged sword is that He will attack His enemies with His word.</p> <p>— — — He will continue to attack them until they submit to His will or He deals the final death blow.</p> <p>— Lastly, we learned that God knows all things, sees all things, hears all things, and is in control of all things.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>Today we will look at the implications of Jesus’ humanity on His position of High Priest.</p> <p>— We will see how and why Jesus sympathizes with us.</p> <p>— — We will look at how we have access to the throne room of God.</p> <p>— — — We will see that Christ gives us that access to the throne room and we need to start resembling Jesus a bit more than we resemble our old selves.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p><b>Hebrews 4:14–16 (NASB95): 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.</b></p> <p><b>15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.</b></p> <p><b>16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.</b></p>	<p>So we have Jesus mentioned by name here in verse 14.</p> <p>— The author is making sure we know who he is talking about.</p> <p>— — That Jesus is the foundational piece of our faith.</p> <p>— — — Albert Mohler wrote, “The writer makes clear that the historical Jesus is the ground of the believer’s faith.”</p> <p>— — — — We are saved by grace, anything through faith in Christ alone.</p> <p>— It is Christ we are saved from ourselves from a selfish world, from sin, from Satan, and from eternal death.</p>
	<p>Before we dive into what is actually being said in this passage, look at the names that are given to Christ.</p> <p>— A great high priest, Son of God, and Jesus Christ.</p> <p>— — We can not understand this passage correctly if we do not know and believe that Jesus Christ is God, the Son of God, and that He took on humanity.</p> <p>— — — Our faith is not founded in a hypothetical idea, it is not founded in a hat that no one else saw; our faith is founded in a moment, a time, a place, a space, and history when God in the flesh left His place on high and did the work He said He would.</p> <p>— — — — This means that Jesus, God in the flesh, can identify with us because He became one of us.</p> <p>— — — — — Christians believe and accept that Jesus Christ is the resurrected Lord: <b><u>READ: Romans 10:9–10 (NASB95): 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.</u></b></p> <p>— — — — — We will be saved when we live in the grace that God extended to us as we have faith, as we have belief in our hearts, that Jesus is Lord and savior of our lives.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So verse 14 here tells us to to hold on to that confession. This word hold on, or hold fast is the same word used for grasp. What kind of grasping holding on to, or hold fast are we supposed to be doing? Well lets look at a biblical example: <b>READ: Matthew 28:9 (NASB95): 9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.</b> They thought Jesus was dead and then He appears in front of them and they grasped Him. This is how we should hold onto our confession.</p> <p>—To not abandon that confession. No trial or temptation should cause us to abandon our confession of Jesus Christ in our lives.</p> <p>— — There is no hope apart from Christ for He has entered the rest of God and the only way we enter that rest is through Christ.</p> <p>— — — We see in this passage and we will see in many other passages, that He is the High Priest.</p> <p>— — — — It is His role as High Priest that we should go into God’s rest.</p>
	<p>So we see Jesus’ humanity pointed out in this passage but we see His role as High priest.</p> <p>—But not just any High Priest but the Great High Priest.</p> <p>— — This addition of the word “great” is an indication that Jesus is superior to the high priest who went before Him.</p> <p>— — — The high priest would enter the Holy of Holies in the temple once a year and offer a blood sacrifice for the sins of the Israelites.</p> <p>— — — — Before the priest can enter the Holy of Holies, they have to first enter into the cleaning process for their sins. To deal with the sin of the nation, the priest had to deal with their sin. They had to be clean before entering the presence of God.</p> <p>— — — — — Jesus’ first work as Great High Priest is to clean us.</p> <p>— — — — — — He does not need cleaning because He did not have sin in Him. He is eternally clean.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>His second task as Great high Priest after cleansing believers in Christ , is bringing believers in Christ into the presence of God.</p> <p>— Jesus cleanses us with His blood making us worthy and clean so that we can enter into the presence of the God of the universe.</p> <p>— — This is not just a one time entrance, a special pilgrimage, but it is a direct access to God’s presence anytime we want.</p> <p>— — — This means that we get to enter into the presence of God and to fellowship with Him.</p> <p>— — — — We have no need for a priest for access to God but we can come to Him and spend time with Him any time we want.</p> <p>— — — — — Jesus left the presence of God to be the savior of all who would believe in Him; to give them access to the God of the universe while they are on this earth, and to live with God for all eternity when their time here is done.</p>

Scripture:	
<p><b>15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.</b></p> <p><b>16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.</b></p>	<p>In leaving His place on high and taking on humble humanity, Jesus can identify with us.</p> <p>—He knows from personal experience what it is like to live this life. (Undercover Boss).</p> <p>— — Andrew Murray wrote, “He Himself lived on earth as man, He understands us perfectly, is prepared to have patience with our weakness, and to give us just the help we need....Jesus, the tried and tempted One, has been placed upon the throne as our High Priest. God gives us a glimpse into the heart of our compassionate, sympathizing Hight Priest.”</p> <p>— — — If Jesus came down in His golden castle from heaven all buff and rich and in all luxury; He would not be able to sympathize with us.</p> <p>— — — — But because He was born in a manger, lived in humble means, tempted as we are, yet with out sin, and nowhere to lay His head; He can identify with us and the things that go on in our lives.</p> <p>— — — — William Hendriksen wrote, “Nothing in human experience is foreign to him, for he himself has endured it. And he has been tempted just as intensely as we are.”</p>
	<p>What is the difference between temptation and sin?</p> <p>—Jesus was tempted but He did not sin.</p> <p>— — Albert Mohler said, “The typical understanding of temptation is the enticement to wrongdoing that confronts us every day. We typically things about it in its most graphic forms: the temptation to sin sexually, the temptation to elevate ourselves our others, the temptation to steal and cheat, or the temptation to lash out in anger.”</p> <p>— — — When we see Jesus tempted in the wilderness we see physical hunger as one of the things that Satan uses to tempt Jesus with.</p> <p>— — — — So temptation is from the smallest thing that God has commanded us to do or to not do to the huge sins that define the world around us.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Sin is giving into the temptation.</p> <p>— <b>READ: Matthew 5:27–28 (NASB95):</b> 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.</p> <p>— — The temptation is to look at that woman with lustful intent.</p> <p>— — — We see Jesus draw a line in the sand for us.</p> <p>— — — — To look at a woman is not sin but as soon as that lustful intent happens is when it turn to sin.</p> <p>— — — — — Mohler wrote, “He is calling them to fight the temptation to turn attraction into sin.... Thus, temptation that resists or rejects sin falls short of sin, while temptation that gives over to sin is sin.” Pink wrote, “Men are tempted to sin by sin, to actual sin by habitual sin, to outward sin, by indwelling sin. And this is the greatest source of sin in us who are sinners.”</p> <p>— — — — — Jesus was tempted but Jesus never sinned.</p>
	<p>So, Jesus was tempted in every way and yet He did not sin.</p> <p>— So, He can understand what we are going through went we are tempted, tired, hungry, thirsty, etc.</p> <p>— — Knowing this, that Jesus sympathizes with us and He knows what we go through gives us rest in His understanding and love.</p> <p>— — — Author W. Pink wrote, “To reassure our poor hearts, the Holy Spirit at once reminds us that Christ is such a great and glorious Priest, yet, withal, He is full of sympathy and tenderness compassion for His afflicted people. He is merciful, as well as omnipotent. He is Man, as well as God.”</p> <p>— — — — If Jesus is such, should we as Christians be this way as well?</p> <p>— — — — — Shouldn’t there be a sympathy and tenderness we have for one another? Shouldn’t there be compassion among us and mercy within the body of Christ?</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>God is loving and God is just, He gives us a way out of temptation if we so choose.</p> <p>—<b>READ: 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB95): 13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.</b></p> <p>— — The problem is that instead of seeking God and His way out of sin we fall into it.</p> <p>— — — The way out of our temptation is the way of Jesus Christ and not our way.</p> <p>— — — — Will you choose Christ over your preferences, over your expectations, over yourself?</p>
<b>16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.</b>	<p>So, if Jesus’ way is the way out of temptation then we should: draw near with confidence to the throne of grace where Jesus is.</p> <p>— We are given access to the throne room of God and instead of choosing that we choose the sin of pride, selfishness, preference—ism, etc.</p> <p>— — Jesus has give us access to the throne of God so draw close into an intimate relationship with Christ.</p> <p>— — — We can come to the throne room of God at any time, from any place, and with any people. So let’s do it.</p> <p>— — — — It is a throne of grace and as Christian we will fine grace there. We can come in our brokenness, in our filthiness, and God will listen no matter what.</p> <p>— — — — —<b>READ: Ephesians 2:13 (NASB95): 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.</b></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>This is not a first time call for believers to come to the throne of grace but more of a re-call for them to come to the God for their strength.</p> <p>—He calls us to come to the throne of grace often because God wants our hearts.</p> <p>— — We are to: <b><u>READ: Romans 12:1 (NASB95):</u></b> <b>1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a <u>living and holy sacrifice</u>, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.</b></p> <p>— — — and what is the sacrifice that God wants? <b><u>READ: Psalm 51:17 (NASB95):</u></b> <b>17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.</b></p> <p>— — — — When we are living for Christ, when we are coming to the throne of grace, then God will help us in our time of need.</p> <p>— — — — — In our battle with temptation, with the storms of this life, with not holding fast to our confession, etc.</p>
	<p>So what is our practical application? How do we apply this sermon to our lives?</p> <p>—Jesus can sympathize with us in our lives. He knows what it is like to face temptation and the weakness that we have in this life.</p> <p>— — Walk with Him through your temptations and weaknesses.</p> <p>—Christ represents us and gives us access to the throne room of God. If you are not going there, you need to be.</p> <p>— — You have the ear of the only God that exists, speak to Him, spend time with Him, and build an intimate relationship with Him.</p> <p>— — — Approach Him knowing that Jesus is the one who grants us access to God.</p> <p>— — — — We need to practice what Christ did and does: sympathy, tenderness, compassion, mercy, and grace with fellow believers in Christ.</p>