

O Come, All You Unfaithful
Hebrews 4:14-16

“Jesus is like us in every respect — human body, heart, mind, and will — except for sin (Hebrews 2:17; 4:15).

“How amazing that the divine Son of God would not just take on part of our humanity on that first Christmas, but all of it —

“and then take that true humanity all the way to the cross for us, and now into heaven and the new creation.

“Jesus took a human body to save our bodies. And he took a human mind to save our minds.

“Without becoming man in his emotions, he could not have rescued our hearts. And without taking a human will, he could not save our broken and wandering wills.

“In the words of Gregory of Nazianzus, ‘That which he has not assumed he has not healed.’

“He became man in full, so that he might
save us in full. He is a truly marvelous Savior.”

David Mathis

Historical Backdrop: The Day of Atonement

Two unavoidable truths:

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God is unapproachably **holy**.

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God is unapproachably **holy**.

Sin carries devastating **consequences**.

Contextual Backdrop: Hebrews 4:12-13

“For the word of God is living and active . . .
discerning the thoughts and intentions of the
heart.

“And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

Hebrews 4:12-13

Two Invitations:

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Let us **hold fast** our confession. (14)

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Let us **hold fast** our confession. (14)

Let us **draw near** to God's throne with confidence. (16)

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain,

“that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,**

“with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”

Hebrews 10:19-23

Jesus stepped into both realities and resolved them completely.

“Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest.”

Hebrews 2:17

Let us hold fast to our confession.

Let us hold fast to our confession.
Let us draw near with confidence.

Why can we hold fast to our confession and draw near to God's throne with confidence?

Because as our Great High Priest:

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1. Jesus **stands** in our **place**.

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“we have a great high priest” (14b)

Because as our Great High Priest:

2. Jesus **sympathizes** with our **powerlessness**.

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“For we do not have a high priest who is
unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

Because as our Great High Priest:

2. Jesus **sympathizes** with our **powerlessness**.

“but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (15)

“Consider your own life. When the relationship goes sour, when the feelings of futility come flooding in, when it feels like life is passing us by,

“when it seems that our one shot at
significance has slipped through our fingers,

“when we can’t sort out our emotions,
when the longtime friend lets us down,

“when a family member betrays us,
when we feel deeply misunderstood,
when we are laughed at by the impressive —

“in short, when the fallenness of the world closes in on us and makes us want to throw in the towel —

“there, right there, we have a Friend who knows exactly what such testing feels like, and sits close to us, embraces us. With us.”

Dane Ortlund

Because as our Great High Priest:

3. Jesus **summons** us into God's **presence**.

Because as our Great High Priest:

4. Jesus **supplies** us with his unlimited **provision**.

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“that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (16b)

Because Jesus stands in our place,
we approach in prayer **confidently**.

Because Jesus sympathizes with our powerlessness, we approach in prayer **honestly and transparently.**

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:1

Because Jesus summons us into God's presence, we approach in prayer **frequently**.

Because Jesus supplies us with his unlimited provision, we approach **expectantly**.

Who is invited?

Who is invited?

The unfaithful

Who is invited?

The unfaithful

The weak and unstable

Who is invited?

The unfaithful

The weak and unstable

The barren and waiting ones

Those weary of praying

Those weary of praying
The bitter and broken

Those weary of praying
The bitter and broken
The guilty and hiding ones

Those weary of praying
The bitter and broken
The guilty and hiding ones
Those who have nothing

Come.