

Hold Fast



“The part of kelp most similar in appearance and location to the roots of plants is called the holdfast. This spaghetti like structure has a primary function of securing the organism to the sea floor; holding it ‘fast’ in all but the most turbulent conditions.”

“Kelp forests are able to form on top of rocky reefs where few other plants can grow because of their unique holdfast system. Instead of sending roots into the soil, kelp holdfasts attach to submerged rocks. Ocean currents around kelp forests can be very strong.”



Hold Fast: Jesus is the Great High Priest

Hebrews 4:14: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “High Priest”?

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-10

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ...

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

- Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-10

Jesus is the Great High Priest:

1. Why you and I need Jesus as the High Priest
2. How Jesus is our GREAT High Priest
3. Our response to Jesus as our Great High Priest

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What does a High Priest do?

Hebrews 5:1: For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

You may be wondering, "How is Jesus being the High Priest relevant to me today?"

What do you do with your sin, failure, guilt and shame?

When you blow it and really mess up?

When you fall into the same sin pattern, again and again?

When you are condemned of sin from your past?

Will God forgive you?

Will God forgive you again and again for the same thing over and over again?

Will God tire and get frustrated by your weaknesses?

Will God take note of that one terrible incident and say, "Whoa, that one I'm not too sure about?"

The Great News is that Jesus is your great high priest who addresses all your sins completely, and knowing what kind of High Priest Jesus is, you can confidently come to the throne of grace. Every. Single. Time.

Hebrews 4:14: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Application/Takeaways:

1. How do you deal with your sin?
 - a. Crushed
 - b. Try harder
 - c. Cheap Grace

Martin Luther: "If I have sinned, my Christ, in whom I believe, has not sinned, and all his is mine and all mine is his."

Application/Takeaways:

2. "This is why I have a problem with Christianity and religion in general of an angry God who makes you feel bad and guilty about your sin all the time."

Application/Takeaways:

3. One more thought: a wrong caricature of God.

2 Corinthians 5:19: "...God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself."

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Lamentations 3:22-23: "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Jesus is the Great High Priest:

1. Why you and I need Jesus as the High Priest

2. How Jesus is our GREAT High Priest

3. Our response to Jesus as our Great High Priest

As our GREAT High Priest...

1. **Jesus is not ambivalent nor annoyed by our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15).**

Hebrews 4:15: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

The Hesitant
Fiance
by
Auguste
Toulmouche



As our GREAT High Priest...

2. Jesus is not someone who means well but is not effective (Hebrews 5:1-3).

Hebrews 5:1-3: For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.

Jesus as the Great High Priest:

Not: "I can't fully help you because I need help myself."

Rather: "I CAN fully help you because not only do I understand your human struggles and need for help but I am the High Priest who is also the Son of God, who Perfectly Obeyed and I am the Perfect Sacrifice!"

As our GREAT High Priest...

3. Jesus is not full of Himself and seeking Self Promotion (Hebrews 5:4-6).

Hebrews 5:4-6: And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

As our GREAT High Priest...

4. Jesus does not see this as a “duty” or “job.”

Hebrews 5:7: In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

As our GREAT High Priest...

5. Jesus' intercession and sacrifice for us is completely and fully effective!

Hebrews 5:8-10: Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

CS Lewis, Miracles: “In the Christian story God descends to re-ascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity...But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him.” ...

“...One may think of a diver, first reducing himself to nakedness, then glancing in midair, then gone with a splash, vanished, rushing down through green and warm water into black and cold water, down through increasing pressure into the deathlike region of ooze and slime and old decay; then up again, back to color and light, his lungs almost bursting, till suddenly he breaks surface again, holding in his hand the dripping, precious thing that he went down to recover.”

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2. How Jesus is our GREAT High Priest

3. Our response to Jesus as our Great High Priest

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Hebrews 4:14-16

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THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

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REDEEMER