

The King Who Cares

Hebrews 2:10-12; 4:14-16

- There was a show I liked to watch about 10-15 years ago. It was called Undercover Boss. The idea of the show was that the bosses of major corporations would leave their desk job and go undercover to try and work some of the jobs that regular people did.
- You could imagine that there were lots of things they learned about the company and the people that they led. They usually left with a greater appreciation for the work that their regular employees do on a regular basis.
- On one show, the CEO of Waste Management went undercover and cleaned porta potties. Now, this is a multibillion-dollar company with 50,000 employees. It was pretty funny when the guy working with him was frustrated at the work of the “new guy” as he was falling behind on his work.
- It’s easy to become disconnected with others whether through cliques or social settings. Sometimes, we get so focused on the people that are immediately around us that we lose connection with others who are just as important. That can happen to any of us, but it is especially tempting for those that are in power to forget the boots on the ground and lose connection with regular folks – whether it’s a government entity, organization, or fortune 500 company.
- *When people make decisions, but they are removed from seeing the implications of those decisions on the people they effect – it always results in chaos.*
- Jesus is unlike any leader or king who has ever existed.

Main Point: Jesus cares for our needs and invites us to cast our burdens on Him.

- **Matthew 11:28-30**

- Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- **Philippians 4:6-7**

- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- **Psalms 55:22**

- Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

- **1 Peter 5:7**

- Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

- **Philippians 4:6**

- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

I. Our greatest need

- a. Maggie was asking me the other day for a new toy. She said if I gave her \$10 then she could pay me back by earning money. I told her she could earn money first and then get what she wants. But she said she really NEEDED it.
- b. Many times, we have similar struggles as adults. We really can't tell the difference between our wants and our needs.

- c. There are times when we are consumed about things that, in the grand scheme of things, will not matter all that much.
- d. Our needs are pretty simple – food, water, a roof over our heads.
- e. Our greatest need that we may not think much about – salvation and forgiveness of our sins.
 - i. VERSE 10 – He is the captain, or the author of salvation made complete through HIS work – HIS sufferings.
- f. All 7 billion plus people in the world are in the same boat when it comes to eternity – *we are all sinners in need of a savior.*
- g. The pope, the president, the marine biologist in Australia, the field laborer in Nigeria, the king of England, and the pastor of Second Baptist Cedartown are all sinners in need of a savior.
- h. This King – who has made all things – saw fit to meet our greatest need whether we were fully aware of this need or not.

II. Embracing as family

- a. VERSE 11
- b. For those that He has saved He will follow through on the work that He began. He sanctifies those that He saves.
- c. This is the wonderful thing about the process of sanctification – he adopts us into his family. We become coheirs with Christ. We are children of God. And He is not ashamed of us.
- d. Legalism says - I messed up, and my dad is going to kill me.
- e. Gospel says – I messed up, and I need to call my dad.

- f. Sign of spiritual maturity – you are growing in your understanding of God’s righteousness, and you are growing in your understanding of man’s sinfulness.
- g. As you grow, you become more aware of the miracle of grace that God offers to us through His son, Jesus.
 - i. To think of all the things we have done wrong, all the ways that we have messed up. And Jesus just says – come home to me.

III. A priest who understands

- a. CHAPTER 4:14-15
- b. The role of the **high priest** in the Old Testament was central to the religious and spiritual life of ancient Israel. He served as the chief mediator between God and the people, overseeing worship, sacrifices, and the rituals of the tabernacle (later the temple). Here's a breakdown of his duties and significance:
- c. **Mediator Between God and the People**
 - i. The high priest acted as a representative of the people before God, offering sacrifices to atone for their sins and intercede on their behalf.
 - ii. This role symbolized the need for a mediator to bridge the gap between a holy God and sinful humanity.
- d. **Key Responsibilities**
 - i. **Offering Sacrifices**
 - 1. **Daily Sacrifices:** Oversaw the daily offerings required by the Law of Moses (Numbers 28:3-8).
 - ii. **Special Offerings:** Presented additional sacrifices during festivals or special occasions (Leviticus 23).

1. The sacrifices were essential to maintaining Israel's covenant relationship with God and covering the sins of the people.

iii. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

1. **Most Important Duty:** Once a year, on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16), the high priest entered the **Holy of Holies**, the innermost part of the tabernacle/temple where the Ark of the Covenant was kept.
 - a. He would:
 - i. Offer a blood sacrifice for his own sins and the sins of the nation.
 - ii. Sprinkle the blood on the **mercy seat** (the cover of the Ark of the Covenant) to atone for the sins of the people.
 - iii. Perform the ritual of the **scapegoat**, symbolically transferring the sins of the nation onto a goat that was sent into the wilderness.

iv. Maintaining Ritual Purity

1. The high priest ensured the tabernacle and its rituals were carried out according to God's commands, maintaining purity and holiness.
2. He wore special garments, detailed in Exodus 28, including the **ephod, breastplate of judgment**, and the **turban** with a gold plate inscribed with "Holy to the Lord."

e. Spiritual Leader of Israel

- i. The high priest was the spiritual authority, guiding the nation in worship and obedience to God's laws.
- ii. He played a role in resolving disputes, interpreting God's will and preserving the holiness of the community.

f. Hereditary Office

- i. The role of high priest was hereditary, passed down within the tribe of **Levi** and specifically from the line of **Aaron**, Moses' brother (Exodus 28:1).
- ii. Only a descendant of Aaron could serve as high priest, fulfilling God's covenantal instructions.

g. Symbol of Christ's High Priesthood

- i. The high priest in the Old Testament was a **foreshadowing of Jesus Christ**, who is described in the New Testament as our **great High Priest** (Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:26-28). Key parallels include:
- ii. **Mediation:** As the high priest mediated between God and Israel, Christ mediates between God and humanity.
- iii. **Atonement:** The high priest offered sacrifices repeatedly, but Christ offered Himself as the once-for-all sacrifice for sin.
- iv. **Access to God:** The high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year, but Christ grants believers direct access to God through His death and resurrection.

h. Significance of the High Priest

- i. The high priest's role underscored the holiness of God, the seriousness of sin, and the need for atonement. It also pointed forward to the ultimate fulfillment of these roles in Jesus Christ, who perfectly bridges the gap between God and humanity.

IV. The throne of grace

- a. What a beautiful way to describe being in the presence of God. The throne of grace.
- b. It reminds us of two things
 - i. Jesus is powerful and in control. The throne symbolizes power. It represents the power of a sovereign and communicates to everyone else just how authoritative this king is. He can make things happen just by speaking.
 - ii. But this is a throne of grace. He uses His power for benevolence and mercy. He is a good and kind king. He is approachable and stands ready to minister to our needs.