

## **The Place of Grace**

### **Hebrews 4:14-5:10**

So far the writer has told us that Jesus is greater than the angels, greater than Moses, and greater than Joshua. Now he wants them to see that Jesus is also greater than Aaron, the archetypal Jewish High Priest. That when it comes to approaching God, and gaining the access you need to the resources you need, Jesus is the real deal.

#### **The Help You Need**

There is a large market for self-help books. That tells us that at least some people are not as happy with their current situation as they might want people to think. When life is hard, we know we need help. But even when life is good we recognize that we're not where we want to be, that we want to grow.

But where do you go when you know you need? Where do you look for the resources when life is hard or when you want to see change in your life?

If you follow the advice of the self-help books, you'll will look inside yourself. But the writer points us somewhere else.

#### **The Place You Need to Go to Get it**

The writer describes God's throne as a throne of grace: a place where undeserved blessing and resource is freely available. Rather than withdraw into introspection, we are to draw near to God for everything we need. But it's also a throne of grace because we don't have to earn our way in or try and deserve entry. It's a place where we can come empty handed.

But because God is holy, and we are not, we need someone who can tear down the curtain that separates us from God.

#### **The One You Need to Get You There.**

The writer gives a number of essential criteria for the Jewish High Priest. He's got to be one of the people, and knowing he himself is weak, he's got to deal gently with the people. He also has to make a sacrifice for his own sins before he can atone for the people on the Day of Atonement. And he's got to be appointed by God.

Then the writer goes on to show that not only has Jesus been appointed as the Son of God, but also as a great High Priest. But unlike the Jewish High Priest, Jesus isn't weakened by sin: he resisted temptation to the last. He became the perfect sacrifice, and rather than offering an animal sacrifice, he became the sacrifice for our sin. Out of his love for us, he offered himself. When he died the curtain in the temple, that separated man from God, was torn down. He had opened the way for us to enter God's throne room.

So, when life gets hard, rather than look inside ourselves when we need help, because of Jesus, our great High Priest, we can draw near to the place of grace with confidence – confident not in ourselves, confident in Jesus, who has made a way for us.