**Christ our High Priest – Heb. 2:17**

**Introduction** – Paul said set your mind on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of Majesty – Col 3:1

Heb. 12:2 – fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author & perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, & sat down at the right hand of the throne of God

* I call this church to join me in the weeks ahead - let’s set our minds on heaven!
* I call this church to learn & understand & live on the glory, sweetness, & joy of knowing that Jesus Christ is our great high priest in heaven!

Paul reminded these persecuted, discouraged Jewish believers to look to Jesus their High Priest!

* I remind this church that the Lord Jesus as High Priest is a mysterious & glorious truth Heb. 5:11 – *concerning Him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing*

His priesthood is beyond our earthly understanding

His priesthood is majestic & glorious

His priesthood is His eternal ministry for His church!

**Today, the Lord our high priest ministers in heaven for the millions of believers on earth!**

**The heart of Christ in heaven is set on His church on the earth!**

**Focal Truth: Jesus Christ is a merciful & faithful high priest for His people**

**Observations**

1. **Jesus Christ our great High Priest is one of us! – 2:17**

*Therefore, he had to be made like His brethren in all things…*

1. Why did Christ become a man? - **to become the great high priest for His people**

**This is the great storehouse of all grace & comfort this side of heaven!**

**5:1 – every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God**

1. Our Lord High Priest is our brother high priest – 2:11 – *for both He who sanctifies & those who are sanctified are all from one Father, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren…*
2. Our Lord High Priest shares our flesh & blood – 2:14

*since the children share in flesh & blood, He himself likewise also partook of the same*

1. Our Lord High Priest died in flesh & blood to destroy the power & fear of death 2:14 – 15 – *that thru death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, & might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*
2. Our Lord High Priest gives help to humans not to angels – 2:16 – *for assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendent of Abraham*
3. Our Lord High Priest had to become one of us to save us – 2:17 – *therefore he had to be made like His brethren in all things -* **He had to become = He was obligated**

He was like us in his bodily limitations

He was like us in his sufferings

He was like us in his trials of mind, will & emotions

He was tempted like us - 2:18 – *since He Himself was tempted in that which He as suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are temped*

***Our High Priest knows from personal experience the what it is to be human!***

**What awesome truth: that God in Christ has forever become one of us!**

1. **Jesus Christ our great High Priest is a merciful high priest – 2:17**

*so that He might become a merciful…high priest in things pertaining to God*

1. He became like us to become a merciful high priest to us

**Mercy is the kind treatment of a wrongdoer, kindness to helpless, kindness to broken**

1. Our Lord High Priest is a mercy filled priest! – The Lord is our Mercy Giver!

**He heard the cries of the sick, blind, the lame on earth – have mercy on us!**

1. Our Lord High Priest responds in endless mercy to his people in their needs

4:16 – let us draw near so that we may receive mercy

The song says it best:

**What love could remember no wrongs we have done, Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum, thrown into a sea without bottom or shore, our sins they are many, His mercy is more!**

**Our sins they are many – His Mercy is More!**

1. **Jesus Christ our great High Priest is a faithful high priest – 2:17**

*so that He might become a faithful…high priest in the things pertaining to God*

1. Our Lord High Priest became like us to become a faithful high priest to us

**Faithfulness is one who is loyal, dependable, reliable – loyal toward others, dependable in their work, reliable in their promises**

1. Our Lord High Priest is a faithful priest!
2. Our Lord High Priest became the sacrifice for our sins

2:17 – to make propitiation for the sins of the people

* + - His obedient death paid the price for our sin
    - His blood settled the debt of sin against us
    - His death settled God’s wrath over the sinfulness of mankind!

1. Our Lord High Priest is faithful to come to the help of His people in their needs

2:18 – *since He Himself was temped in that which he has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted*

**Here is grace! He comes to the aid of those who are tempted**

* He comes to the aid of those tempted to give up their faith in God
* He comes to the aid of those tempted to stop walking with God
* He comes to the aid of those without power & hope
* He comes to the aid of those surrounded by troubles
* He comes to the aid of those captured by temptation!

**Oh, the grace of our Lord High Priest in heaven! He is merciful & faithful to come to the aid of His people in all their troubles on earth!**

**Our High Priest – faithfully merciful – mercifully faithful!**

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **Jesus Christ is our High Priest brother – Heb. 2:11**
2. **Jesus Christ is the High Priest of those whom He has saved!**
3. **No one is merciful & faithful like Jesus Christ our high priest**
4. **All our help comes from our heavenly High Priest – come to Him for all your needs!**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**