



**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, March 19, 2021**

**Scripture:** Hebrews 4:14-16

**TITLE: Jesus is Our Empathetic Priest**

“You just don’t understand.” Have you ever heard that? Those are painful words to hear, but they’re probably right.

As a pastor, doing funerals for the loss of a child or a parent is just part of the job, but I’ve never experienced that kind of loss. I do care. I am sorry. But I just don’t understand what they’re going through. As a counselor, there are many issues that get brought up in a counseling office — things I’ve never experienced and never want to. I can say, “I’m sorry. I’ll pray for you. Here is what God’s Word says about it.” But I can’t relate. I don’t understand.

We’ve all experienced those moments where we feel like we’re alone in a situation or season of life. But there is someone who cares and empathizes with your pain and trials. That person is Jesus.

Listen to the writer of Hebrews as He describes Jesus:

“So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. <sup>15</sup> This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most” (Hebrews 4:14-16, NLT).

Jesus is our great high priest. What does that mean? Does he wear one of those big funny hats? No. A priest is someone who mediates in religious services, but also someone who is set apart for those services. Jesus is our perfect mediator.

Priests would offer sacrifices on behalf of the people for their sins. They would do this over and over again. But the problem was, the blood of animals couldn’t remove the sins of the people. So Jesus became flesh to become the perfect sacrifice for our sins. It was the once-and-for-all payment. Now, He is our mediator who, as the writer said, understands our weaknesses and faced all of the same trials we do.

Jesus was and is fully God. And He also became fully man. Christ experienced hunger, abandonment, rejection, disappointment, temptation, pain, loss, and the list just goes on. Jesus has suffered and been tempted, but passed the test perfectly. Now He rules at the right hand of God as our great High Priest and King.

Because of this, here is my challenge for you today: Talk to Jesus. Jesus is wonderful. He's God. He's King. He's our Priest. He's also our friend. He's better than your best friend, because He not only cares, but He can do something about your situation.

So talk to God openly about your fears, your pains, your abuse, your hopes, your wishes, your dreams. And don't just do it once. Do it as often as it comes to mind. The commune with God is a privilege and should bring you joy.

So, let's spend time with our great, empathetic Priest. Because when we do, we will win the day.