

Jesus is Greater: A study of Hebrews

Week Eight

A Sympathetic High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Pastor Steve Treichler

February 21st, 2021 (8:30 and 10:30am), FB Live (10am)

For His Glory and our joy!

TEXT:

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

¹Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. ⁴And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

“You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” [Psalm 2:7]

⁶And he says in another place

“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” [Psalm 110:4]

⁷During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Message Notes:

A new podcast! – Romans Untangled

Introduction – *“How to listen to a sermon*

Review of Hebrews 1-2

Jesus is all that!!

Jesus > OT Prophets

Jesus > Angels

Jesus’ Gospel > Old Testament Law

Jesus = 100% Human

Jesus = 100% God

Jesus > the situations OT prophets wrote about

Jesus > Moses

Jesus’ Salvation > Moses’ Exodus

Jesus’ Rest > Moses’ Promised Land

Today’s Message:

Our gentle and empathetic High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

We will come back to 4:14-16

The Criteria for a High Priest

Hebrews 5:1-4

The Manner of a High Priest

Hebrews 5:2

The Appointment of the Father

Hebrews 5:5-6

The Weakness (and STRENGTH!) of Jesus

Hebrews 5:7

Matthew 4:1

Matthew 16:21-23

Matthew 26:36-39

The Effectiveness of Jesus' Life

Hebrews 5:8-10

So, let us approach the throne of grace with confidence

Hebrews 4:14-16

HE IS ABLE TO EMPATHIZE!!

Gospel Application – *How can you this week, with confidence, boldly approach the throne of God because of our great, gentle and empathetic high priest, Jesus Christ?*

Scripture Passages (unless otherwise noted, from the NIV)

Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted ^v by the devil...

Matthew 16:21-23

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Matthew 26:36-39

³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Philippians 2:8-11

⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Quotes (used or referred to):

In other words, when Hebrews 5:2 says that Jesus “can deal gently with the ignorant and the wayward,” the point is that Jesus deals gently and only gently with all sinners who come to him, irrespective of their particular offense and just how heinous it is. What elicits tenderness from Jesus is not the severity of the sin but whether the sinner comes to him. Whatever our offense, he deals gently with us...Consider what all this means. When we sin, we are encouraged to bring our mess to Jesus because he will know just how to receive us. He doesn't handle us roughly. He doesn't scowl and scold. He doesn't lash out, the way many of our parents did. And all this restraint on his part is not because he has a diluted view of our sinfulness. He knows our sinfulness far more deeply than we do. Indeed, we are aware of just the tip of the iceberg of our depravity, even in our most searching moments of self-knowledge. His restraint simply flows from his tender heart for his people. Hebrews is not just telling us that instead of scolding us, Jesus loves us. It's telling us the kind of love he has: rather than dispensing grace to us from on high, he gets down with us, he puts his arm around us, he deals with us in the way that is just what we need. He deals gently with us.

~ Dane C. Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly* (p. 49). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

As long as you fix your attention on your sin, you will fail to see how you can be safe. But as long as you look to this high priest, you will fail to see how you can be in danger. Looking inside ourselves, we can anticipate only harshness from heaven. Looking out to Christ, we can anticipate only gentleness.

~ Dane C. Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly* (p. 51). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives into the temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it; and Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation really means—the only complete realist.

~ C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 1952

A, b, and c set out the author's ideal criteria for any high priest: (a) In order to act as the people's representative before God, he must be part of what he represents; i.e., he must be genuinely human. (b) It is precisely because he shares human weakness and has to offer expiatory sacrifice, not only for the people's but also for his own sins, that he has a tolerant understanding of (v. 2 *metriopathein*, RSV "deal gently with") those who sin through ignorance (RSV "the ignorant and the wayward"). In the Aristotelian tradition *metriopathein* meant "to moderate one's feelings," i.e., to avoid excess. In Hebrews, however, it means to moderate one's attitude toward others so as to treat them with magnanimous compassion (see Hughes, 176). Like Num 15:27–31, our author distinguishes between those who sin "with a high hand," i.e., deliberately, and those whose sin is unwitting. Only the latter's sins could be expiated by sacrifice. Since sin "done with a high hand" was a refusal to accept God's sovereign commandments, it was regarded as nothing less than a declaration of independence from God. The cult, therefore, could not effect reconciliation for those who chose to place themselves outside the covenant community. The author of Hebrews accepts this to be true not only for the sacrifices of Judaism but also for the sacrifice of Jesus (see 10:26). (c) His is not a human but a divine call and appointment.¹

It is with reference to this suffering that Jesus was *made perfect*; indeed, what is said here is a reaffirmation of the teaching already given in 2:10 that Christ was made "perfect through suffering." This perfection was progressively achieved as he moved on toward the cross which marked the consummation of his suffering and obedience. His perfection consisted in the retention of his integrity, in the face of every kind of assault on his integrity, and thereby the establishment of his integrity. Had he failed at any point, his integrity would have been impaired and his perfection lost, with the consequence that he would have been disqualified to act as mediator and redeemer. What was essential was that, starting, like Adam, with a pure human nature, he should succeed where Adam had failed. His sufferings both tested and, victoriously endured, attested his perfection, free from failure and defeat. This he himself

¹ Marie E. Isaacs, [*Reading Hebrews and James: A Literary and Theological Commentary*](#), Reading the New Testament Series (Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 2002), 73–74.

dramatically declared by his triumphant utterance from the cross: “It is finished!” (Jn. 19:30), which in the light of what is said here in Hebrews may be understood as signifying, “I have retained my integrity to perfection,” as well as, “My work of redemption is perfectly accomplished.”²

² Philip Edgcumbe Hughes, [*A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*](#), The New International Commentary on the Old and New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977), 187–188.

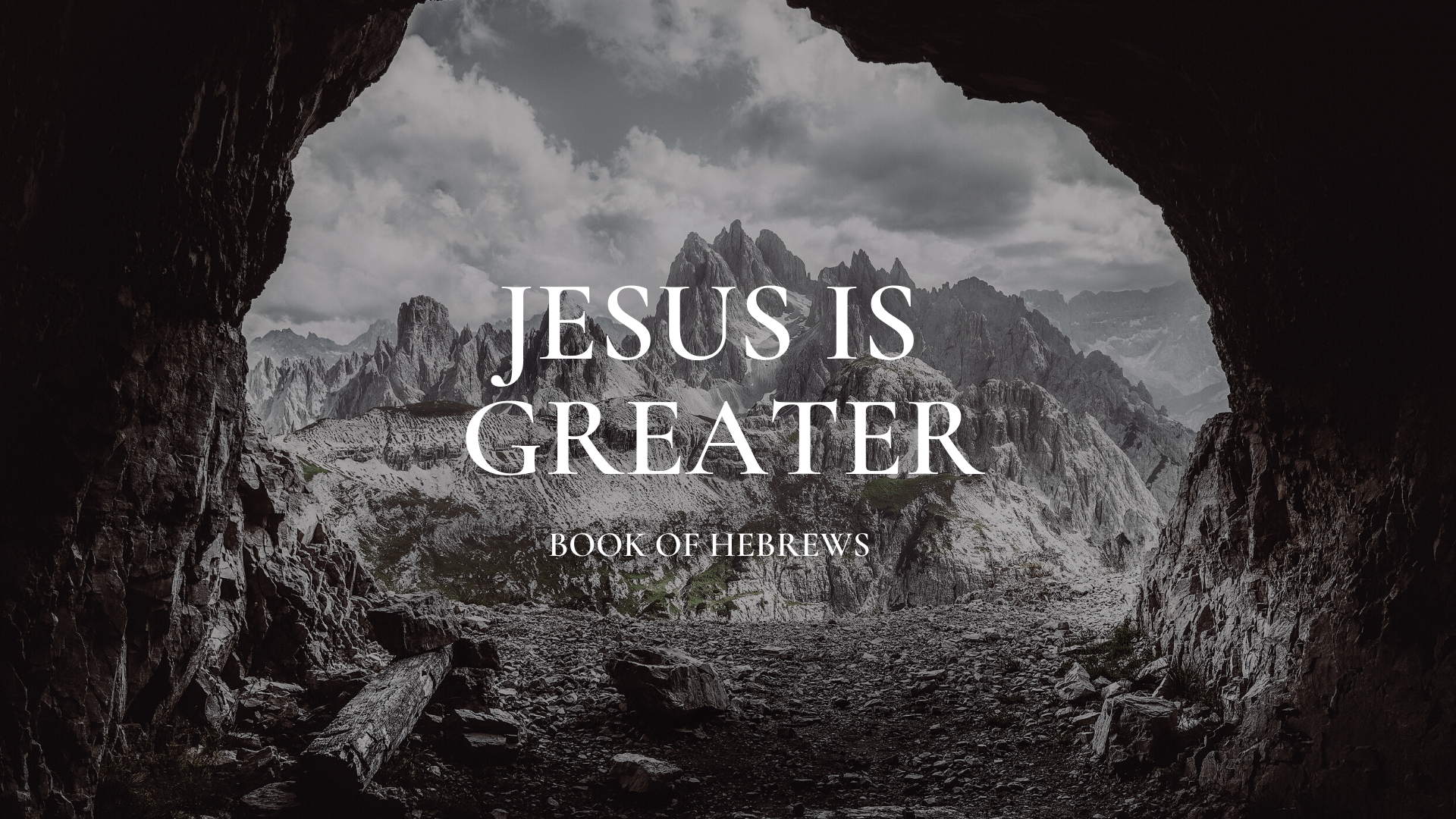


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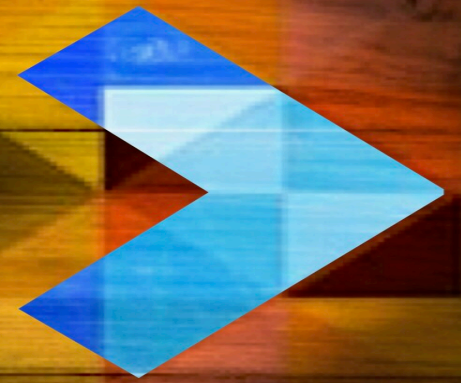


JESUS IS GREATER

BOOK OF HEBREWS

JESUS

GREATER THAN



Jesus > OT Prophets

Jesus > Angels

Jesus' Gospel > Old Testament Law

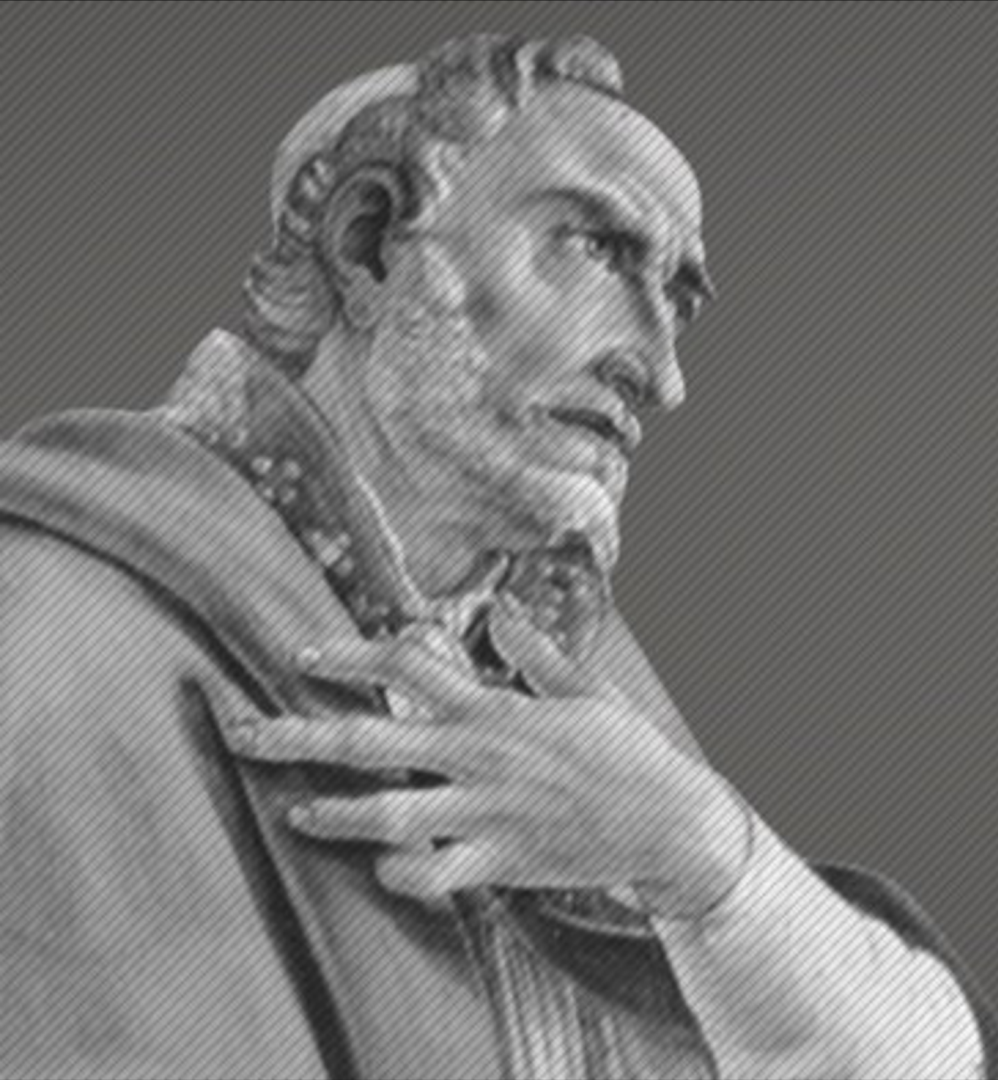
Jesus = 100% Human & Jesus = 100% God

Jesus > the situations OT prophets wrote about

Jesus > Moses

Jesus' Salvation > Moses' Exodus

Jesus' Rest > Moses' Promised Land



AUGUSTINE
OF HIPPO

354-430



You stir us to delight in praising You;
for You have formed us for Yourself,
and our hearts are restless
till they find rest in Thee.

AUGUSTINE
OF HIPPO

354-430

~ St. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions* (Book I.1.1).

This rest is for Today

Hebrews 4:1-13

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. ⁹There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. ¹¹Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)

²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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⁵In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

“You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” [Psalm 2:7]

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⁷During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.



JESUS IS GREATER

BOOK OF HEBREWS

Our gentle and empathetic High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-16

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The Criteria for a High Priest

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The Criteria for a High Priest

Among people – Weakness – Called of God

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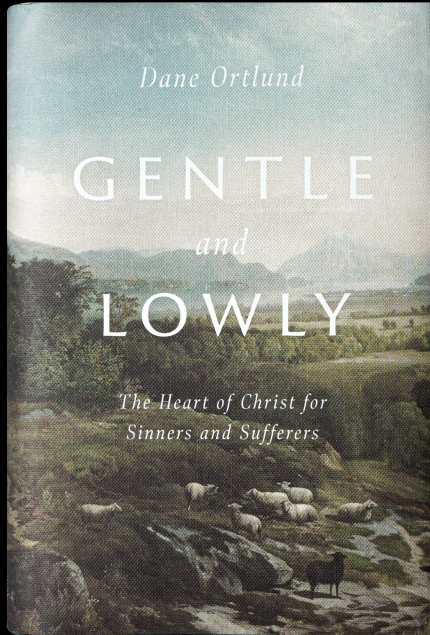
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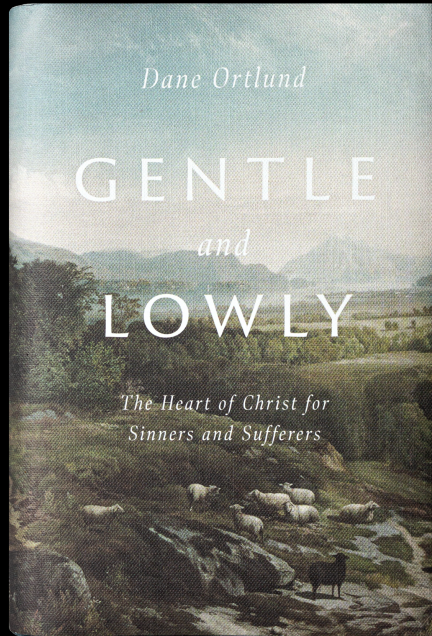
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severity of the sin but whether the sinner comes to him. Whatever our offense, he deals gently with us... Consider what all this means. When we sin, we are encouraged to bring our mess to Jesus because he will know just how to receive us. He doesn't handle us roughly. He doesn't scowl and scold. He doesn't lash out, the way many of our parents did.



And all this restraint on his part is not because he has a diluted view of our sinfulness. He knows our sinfulness far more deeply than we do. Indeed, we are aware of just the tip of the iceberg of our depravity, even in our most searching moments of self-knowledge. His restraint simply flows from his tender heart for his people. Hebrews is not just telling us that instead of scolding us, Jesus loves us. It's telling us the kind of love he has: rather than dispensing grace to us from on high, he gets down with us, he puts his arm around us, he deals with us in the way that is just what we need. He deals gently with us.



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The Appointment of the Father

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The Weakness (AND STRENGTH!) of Jesus

Hebrews 5:7

⁷During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

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The Effectiveness of Jesus' Life

Hebrews 5:8-10

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Philippians 2:8-11

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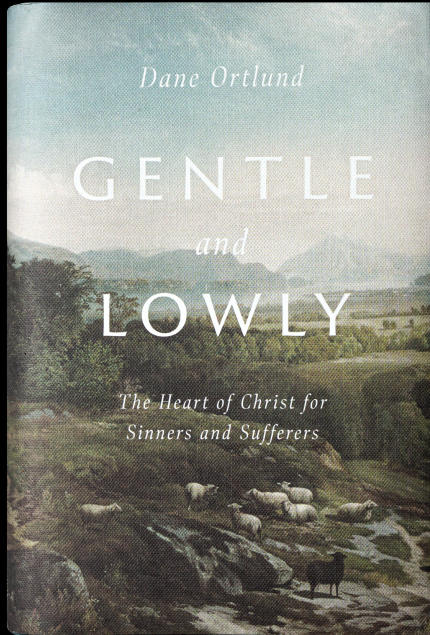
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So, let us hold on to and approach

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