

# ***“The Greatest God-Man”***

Hebrews 4:14-16

September 10, 2018

**VIDEO:** Greatest Showman #1

**INTRO:** Welcome to THE BRIDGE and our continuing series entitled ***“HOLD ON,”*** as we walk thru the Book of Hebrews...

Many are probably thinking two things right now:

1. ***“Hey... that’s The Greatest Showman”*** (and)
2. What’s that doing in the opening of Pastor Jeff’s sermon from Hebrews???

Well... **A).** You’re right... and **B).** I think it represents **a near perfect illustration** of our text for today – **Hebrews 4:14-16.**

**CONTEXT:** Let me explain & then we’ll proceed through a very unique & special time of worship today...

- **Remember** what Hebrews is...
- **Remember** where we have been in Hebrews...
- Look now at what Hebrews 4:14-16 bring to us...
  - **Exhortation** (*we are capping one warning & prepping for another*)
  - **We’re also being reminded of the great blessing we have in Jesus** (*praise/worship*)

- **NOTE:** Hebrews' primary audience said they loved Christ... but many of them were beginning to disconnect from Him, thinking that they could compromise & hide in church... and still maintain their hope.
- Hebrews' warnings make it absolutely clear, Christ alone saves... and true salvation includes standing with Him, while being sanctified, till the end. See ch.11

## **BIG IDEA:** Jesus is **G. O. D. – God!**

(Don't settle for the circus of church... you NEED Christ!)

**PREVIEW:** *As our God & Great High Priest... Jesus is:*

1. **GREAT...** in ALL ways
2. **ONE...** in the Trinity AND with us
3. **DELIVERER** & Redeemer

## **I. Jesus is GREAT in ALL ways!**

*<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

### **A. The Great & ONLY Go-between**

- God & man
- Earth & heaven
- He went thru the heavens! (vs. the "curtain")

*As humanity's representative, He intercedes for us before God. As God's representative, He assures us of God's forgiveness.*

**Did you know...**

Every N.T. book warns of false teacher/leaders (except Philemon)

- *...wolves in sheep's clothing... from among you...*
- *...they come down disguised as angels of light...*
- ...Jude... Titus 1:10-16... 2 Peter... 1<sup>st</sup> John.....

Here's another song from The Greatest Showman... Listen to these words as one who followed the showman & gave their heart to the circus... vs. the God-man & Church!

**VIDEO:** *"Greatest Showman #2 – Never Enough"*

- You set off a dream in me... it's getting louder...
- Without YOU, all the shine of a thousand spot lights, all the stars we steal from the night sky, will never be enough, NEVER BE ENOUGH!
- Towers of gold are still too little, these hands could hold the world, but it'll never be enough...
- NEVER (5X) for ME... NEVER enough for ME!
- NOTE: what sounds like a sweet love song is really a tragic & telling reality...

**Only the real Savior saves...**

*Showmen leave you energized BUT **empty**...  
because, while they ARE energized...  
THEY... are EMPTY! - JDP*

Eventually... time tells the truth! It may not be till Judgment Day... but we learned last week, the Word of God WILL strip everyone naked & expose them...

**VIDEO:** *“Greatest Showman – Forgiveness”*

- I’m not a stranger to the dark...
- Better luck with your next job...
- Those people will never accept us...
- I’VE got an IDEA... *I’m “putting together a SHOW”*
- I don’t have an act.... EVERYONE’s got an ACT!
- ...Those are the words of a SCOUNDREL... *a showman*
- *The runaways are running the night...*

***Does it bother you that everything you’re selling is fake?***

- How do you think “I” built it/**this circus?**
- I brought hardship on you AND our family...
- You warned me, and I wouldn’t listen...
- I just..... **wanted to be more than I was...**

***A “show” without the Spirit is a sham!  
And sadly, every sham... has a show-man. - JDP***

- We NEED The Gospel’s One & only God-man!
- We don’t need adrenalin... we need anointing.
- ...Not happy-spunk, but God’s Holy Spirit! - JDP

## B. **The Great Son of God**

- Vertical & Horizontal
- **John 17** unifies the Vertical & Horizontal!

***Jesus is the Son & Substance from which all biblical shadows find their Source!*** - JDP

## C. **The Great Gift of Grace & the Gospel in Person!**

- He gave us the Great **COMMANDMENTS** (be all-loving)
- He gave us a great **CONFESSION** (His Gospel & Lordship)
- He gave us a great **CONFIDENCE** (Philipp. 4:13; 2 Pt. 1:3)
- He gave us a Great **COMMISSION** (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
- He gave us a great **CONFLICT** to win (Ephesians 6:10ff)

## II. **Jesus is ONE...** *in the Trinity & with US*

*<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

*Jesus is... shockingly sympathetic & empathetic with us.* - JDP

### A. **One who SYMPATHIZES** with our weaknesses

Now listen to this song as one whose God sympathizes with you... **Not to justify sin, but to save us from it!**

## **VIDEO:** *"Greatest Showman – This Is Me"*

- I am not a stranger to the dark.... Hide away, they say, we don't want your broken parts...
- I've learned to be ashamed of all my scars...
- *Run away, they say, no one will love you as you are. BUT... I won't let them break me down to dust... I know that there's a place for US...*
- ...for we are glorious! (in Christ)
- When the sharpest words want to cut me down...  
...I'm gonna drown them out.

## *God's cutting & penetrating Word doesn't "cut you down," it cleans you UP!* -JDP

- I'm brave. I'm bruised. I'm who I'm meant to BE
- THIS IS ME!
- Look out cause here I come! I'm not scared to be seen... I make no apologies... THIS IS ME!
- Another round of bullets hits my skin... Fire away cause TODAY I won't let the shame sink in!
- We are bursting through the barricades... and reachin' for the sun/Son...
- *We are WARRIORS!*
- *That's what we've BECOME!*
- I'm not scared to be seen... I make no apologies... THIS IS ME!!!
- And I know that I deserve your love (in Christ)
- There's nothing (in Christ) that I'm not worthy of

B. **One who EMPATHIZES** with our temptations...

**NOTE:** Saying “I haven’t” vs. saying “I can’t” or “I won’t” marks a critical distinction... When one says, “I haven’t,” they are being honest & open to repentance and redirection (which leads to restoration). By contrast, those who think & say, “I can’t” &/or “I won’t,” are deceptive & defiant, both of which lead to damnation.

C. **One who EXEMPLIFIES** all that we seek to BE...

### III. **Jesus is DELIVERER** & Redeemer

*<sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

*Jesus is... compassionately-merciful & missionally-gracious. -JDP*

A. ***“Draw near with confidence”*** (cf. John 6:44 & 14:6)

**QUOTE:** H.B. Charles:

*We do NOT approach the Lord like...*

- *...a desperate beggar going to a wealthy stranger for a big favor...*
- *...a guilty criminal going to a strict judge for a lenient sentence...*
- *...a slave without status going to master without mercy for a request without assurance.*

**No friend.** If you are a Christian, you are a **child of the King!**

**VIDEO:** “Greatest Showman – Come Alive”

- **Come alive, come alive... Go and light your light, let it burn so bright**
- **You’re more than you could ever be...**
- **Cause you’re dreamin with your eyes wide open!**
- **You know you can’t go back again, to the world that you were living in...**
- **Trust me... they don’t know it yet... but they are going to love you.**
- **No more living in those shadows... you and me we know how that goes...**
- **Once you see it you’ll never, NEVER be the same!**
- **We will BE the light... keep on shining!**
- **You can prove there’s more to you**
- **You cannot be afraid.**
- **Come alive. Come alive!**
- **Go and light your light... let it burn so bright!**

**B. Distributes... mercy & grace**



*The biblical Church... the supernaturally loving & unified, set-apart & serving-people of God, who live on mission together, are the biblical recipients of Christ's, blood-bought, personally-distributed mercy & grace. Yet, in our culture today, there's a fine line between the circus & the Church, because, frankly, many Christ-less churches are little more than a Scripture-bending circuses... The irony is, when the Church is healthy, while it never needs the circus lights & atmosphere, it IS the greatest show on earth... AND it IS the place & people you ought to want to BE. – Amen. – JDP*

Now watch this with the emphasis on a healthy heart...

See what a difference the heart makes.

**VIDEO:** *"Greatest Showman – The Greatest Show"* (reprise)

- This is the moment you've been waiting for...
- Buried in your bones, **an ache you can't ignore...**
- **Just surrender...** you feel that feeling taking over
- It's fire, it's freedom...
- It's the preacher in the pulpit & your devotion...
- Do you want to go where impossible comes true?
- It's takin' over you... This IS the greatest show!
- Watchin' it coming true... It's takin' over you.
- It's everything you ever want... It's everything you ever need... and it's here, right in front of you... This is where you want to BE!

## **SPECIAL Note:**

- Opening: *...this is where "the lost get found"*
- Closing: **...Discipleship portrayed:**
  - Next generation of leadership
  - This is for YOU.
  - "The show must go on!"
  - Holistic healthy portrayed
  - Dad's return personifies joy
  - Love wins in the end!

P.T. Barnum: *"The noblest art is to make people happy."*

Jesus: *"The noblest art is to help people BE holy."*  
(a.k.a. **"Go make disciples!"**)

## **PRE-CLOSE:**

Let me begin to shut down the same way I began...

Here's the GREATEST pre-closing question of all time...

## **SO WHAT?**

**HOW will Hebrews 4:14-16 change you "From Now On"?**

Again... let this song be applied thru a biblical interpretation and spiritual application... I pray!

**VIDEO:** *"Greatest Showman - From Now On"* (lyrics)

- This song has stirred my soul...

- A man learns who is there for him... when the glitter fades & the walls won't hold...
- What remains can only be what's true...
- If ALL is lost... more I gain, cause it leads me back to You.
- From now on... these eyes will not be blinded by the light...
- From now on... what's waited till tomorrow starts tonight – Tonight.

*Let this promise in me start, like an anthem in my heart... From now on. From NOW on.*

- I drank champagne with kings & queens, the politicians praised my name...
- But these are someone else's dreams... the pitfalls of the man I became.
- **For years & years I chased their cheers...**
- *The crazy speed of always needing more...*
- BUT... when I stop & see you here (Lord)... I remember who ALL this is for (King Jesus)
- And from now on... these eyes will not be blinded by the lights... From now on... what's waited till tomorrow starts tonight – starts TONIGHT!
- And let this promise in me start (this is our prayer)... like an anthem in my heart! From now on... From now on... From now on!
- And we will come back home... and we will come back home! Home again!!! (5X)

**CLOSE:**

Now I want to close & pray... but not before highlighting the last point in passage...

## **Jesus is every Christian's ultimate DEFENDER**

*...to help in time of need.*

- **He is our Source of Help!** ...Jesus is G. O. D. – God!
- Jesus is GREAT in ALL ways...
- He's ONE with US!
- He's our Deliverer, Redeemer, & DEFENDER – Amen!

THIS part of Hebrews' exhortation is pure praise & worship!

*Let this promise in me start...*

*like an anthem in my heart...*

*And we will come back home...*

*home again!*

**All by the work of our Great High Priest...  
Jesus, The Greatest God-Man**

**Let's PRAY!**

**VIDEO:** *"No Longer Slaves"*

**VIDEO:** *"Jesus Paid It All"*

**VIDEO:** *"In Christ Alone"*

