

“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!

¹⁴ 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... 1st 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*

¹⁵ 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

¹⁶ 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"*

