

# JESUS IS **BETTER**

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Week 9: A Better Empathy

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## **Introduction:**

Empathy = the ability to feel the pain of another, because you've walked in their \_\_\_\_\_.

Review – Hebrews 4:15-16

## **Jesus: Our Empathetic High Priest**

Hebrews 5:1-2

Hebrews 5:3-4

See Exodus 28:29

Hebrews 5:5-6

Hebrews 5:7

See John 12:27

Hebrews 5:8-10

## **Life Application:**

The high priesthood of Aaron and his lineage was one of empathy, dealing gently with the people. The high priesthood of Jesus offers greater empathy, because Jesus was tested in every way as we are, and He is both the high priest AND the sacrifice all in one!

Where is it that you are teetering on doubt today? Will you choose to radically trust your High Priest who intimately knows your struggle?

## **SMALL GROUP Q'S:**

### **Personal Life:**

1. Living by faith – trusting that we can count on certain things and certain people – is automatic to daily life. What are some of the ways you subconsciously live by faith without even realizing it on a daily basis?

### **Ponderings:**

2. In the weekend message, we discussed why Jesus is able to offer us even better empathy than the high priests of the Old Covenant. What practical application or significance is there in realizing that we have a God who knows our struggle not just intellectually, but empathetically, having walked in our shoes? Offer some specific examples or real-life scenarios...
3. When you blow it in some area of anger, lust, greed, pride, etc., is your sense of God's gentleness toward you altered in any way? How are our emotions impacted when we know we have not behaved in accordance with our new identity in Christ? Why do we feel this sense of inner conflict? How does having a gentle High Priest assist us in our repentance process?
4. For the ancient Hebrews, they were tempted to go back to a law-based system in which they had to make repeated sacrifices, and the author is trying to shift their mind-set to one of absolute trust in the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus. Why do you think this concept was so difficult for them to grasp? Why is it sometimes difficult for people like US to grasp?
5. "Healthy guilt" is what drives us to admit our sin to our High Priest Jesus with humble sorrow, but without fear of wrath. In contrast, "unhealthy (unbiblical) guilt" creates a shame-based self-image and a desire to self-punish. Why is the latter a demonstration of a LACK of trust in the finished work of Jesus? Explain...

### **Promptings:**

Why is confidence in the High Priesthood of Jesus so radically important in your process of growing as Christ's disciple? Can you legitimately follow Jesus if this confidence is not central to your experience as a believer? Are there perspectives that must change in your current way of thinking and relating to God? How does understanding and embracing His empathy impact that journey?