



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 20, 2021

The Lord be with you.

Have you ever been going through a difficult time and someone says to you, I know what you're going through? As well-intention as those words might be, I know what you're going through can sound hollow when you just buried your husband. Or when you're caring for a special needs child. Or when you've lost your job. Oh, someone might know bits and pieces of what you're going through, but no one really knows what you're going through, nobody knows but Jesus. And Jesus doesn't just know the facts of what you're going through. Jesus knows the feelings. Jesus feels with you the feelings of all that you're going through, Jesus hurts. He cries, that's why I love to sing the old spiritual. Nobody knows the trouble I've seen. Nobody knows but Jesus. And once more Jesus doesn't just know what you're going through, Jesus wants to help you...

We see this in a passage of Scripture that I have well, underlined in my Bible, it's Hebrews chapter 4 verse 14 through 16. I read, since then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the son of God. Let us hold fast to our profession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Now, there's so much here that it's hard to know where to begin, but that the son of God became human, he made himself one with you and me as a baby at Bethlehem. He entered fully into our human experience, and today's Scripture emphasizes Jesus oneness with you and me, his solidarity with us. First, stating it negatively, then stating it positively. First the negative stating, we do not have a high priest unable to sympathize with our weaknesses. And then the positive statement, but we do have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. So Jesus, our great high priest, he knows not just the reality of what you're going through, but Jesus knows, he knows your feelings in it, Jesus feels with you. That's all wrapped up here in the Greek word that is translated sympathize. It's the Greek word *sympatheo*, SYN, meaning together. And then at *PATHEO* meaning to feel. So *sympatheo*, to feel together with... And that means that Jesus feels together with you. When you walk away from your husband's fresh grave, he feels together with you. When you're heaving and reching from chemotherapy, Jesus really does enter into it with you, Jesus feels... Our text says Jesus can *sympatheo* with our weaknesses.

The Greek word here for weaknesses is *asthenas*. It means to be without strength, it can be without strength physically, to be without strength morally, and the all powerful Jesus feels with us. And being without strength as we face trials, as we face troubles, as we face temptations, Jesus feels the difficulties of living the life of faith. Jesus is not a stranger to anything that you're going through.



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Jesus is truly Immanuel, he is God with us in all of our pain and sorrow. As a son of God, having taken on our humanity as God, He is infinitely merciful, and as human, he feels with you completely, and though he is sinless, He feels with sinners. But there's more here than Jesus understanding. Jesus knowing, Jesus just feeling what you're going through, there is help. There is divine help, as it says, Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness so that we may receive mercy and grace to help in time of need. It says that you can approach the throne of grace with boldness. Notice it is a throne of grace, not a seat of justice. It is a throne of grace. That's what God's throne looks like. Grace. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Son of God, not only feels with you what you're going through, but with him you may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Why not go boldly to Him today?

I am Tim Smith or fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.