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Sermon Notes

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Ushered by Faith into the Throne of Grace

Hebrews 4:14-16

I can hardly imagine what it must have been like to have been Queen Esther as she stood outside the throne room of her husband, King Xerxes; her heart must have been beating wildly, her breaths short, her thoughts scrambling wildly...

Her husband was the most powerful man on the face of the earth, ruler of a vast empire of 127 provinces. On the other side of the door, Xerxes sat on the exalted throne of the Persian Empire, surrounded by dozens of counselors and powerful soldiers who were willing to die to save the king or to kill at the king's command.

The circumstances had driven Esther to take her very life into her hands; she had found out that the King had been tricked into issuing an edict to destroy her people, the Jews. Esther wanted to go into the throne room to rescue her people... BUT she knew the mortal danger:

Esther 4:11 "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

Esther was willing, however, to risk her life... to risk that she would be put to death, coming UNINVITED into the throne room of the King

"If I perish, I perish."

So with boldness she walked UNINVITED into the throne room of King Xerxes; and the King saw her:

Esther 5:2-3 When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. ³ Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

Friends, this is an amazing story of a bold access into a throne room... the golden scepter extended to her represented her welcome there; but it did not imply a free pass to come constantly into Xerxes's throne room.

Amazingly, this little scene is a picture of the grace that flows to us from the truths in Hebrews 4:16

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

My goal is to give you a sense of the immense privilege Jesus has won for us pictured by Queen Esther's approach to Xerxes' throne:

- Access to the throne room of Almighty God... not merely a human emperor like Xerxes
- Access granted CONTINUALLY, not just on one occasion... WHENEVER is our time of need
- Access that actually comes with a COMMAND to approach, a COMMAND to draw near to God
- Access that is granted not merely by the extension of a golden scepter, but by the precious blood of Christ

I want to unfold Hebrews 4:14-16 and give you a sense of the immense GREATNESS implied in these verses

I. First... A Word About Faith

A. Faith is the Eyesight of the Soul

B. The Word of God is the Food of Faith... it Opens Your Eyes to a Vast Spiritual World

C. Basic Building Blocks of this Passage

1. God: the Holy One

2. Jesus: The Son of God, Our High Priest

3. Ourselves: As sinners in need of grace; as children of God, welcome in His presence

4. Our enemies: the world, the flesh, the devil

5. Our situation

- a. Naturally separated from God b/c of our sins... with an infinite gap between us and the Holy One

- b. Jesus, the Son of God, has worked a great salvation for us
 - c. By faith, we are now the children of God... completely forgiven of our sins
 - d. BUT we are still in immense danger, surrounded by our enemies: the world, the flesh, the devil
 - e. Jesus is our Great High Priest, who has gone into heaven to the very presence of God
 - f. We must hold fast to our confession... and we cannot do it without God's ongoing grace
 - g. Every moment is a time of need, and we must see our great need and our great privilege... in order to hold fast, we MUST draw near to the throne of grace
6. This is the basic lay of the land... we know all these things... nothing is new... but the purpose of clear teaching from the word of God is to make all these things more vivid than ever... to increase our faith
7. Goal: to so build up your faith that you consistently 1) see the greatness of God, seated on the throne of the universe; 2) see the greatness of Christ as your High Priest; 3) see the greatness of your danger in enemy territory; 4) see the greatness of your privilege as a child of God to have free access to God any time; AND 5) consistently draw near to God in great boldness to receive the help you require to finish your Christian journey

II. The Greatness of Our High Priest Jesus

A. What is a High Priest?

1. The first priest mentioned in the Bible is Melchizedek, in Genesis 14

Genesis 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High

We will get to know Melchizedek thoroughly in Hebrews 7

2. The Book of Hebrews summarizes the calling of a priest plainly:

Hebrews 5:1 Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

3. Aaron, the brother of Moses, was chosen as the first High Priest... his descendents after him were to follow in this sacred office

- a. The High Priest represented the people before God, and God before the people
- b. In Latin, the word “priest” = *pontifex*... bridge builder
- c. Ezekiel was a priest... and the calling came in his prophecy:

Ezekiel 22:30 I looked for a man among them who would ... stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.

The word “gap” speaks of that infinite space between God the Holy One and us as sinners... a breach, like a severe tear in cloth, or the breach in a city wall... it speaks of a wide separation between us and God

Wider than the Grand Canyon... wider than the distance between us and the edge of the Milky Way... it is an INFINITE GAP because of our sins

- d. A priest stands in the gap between a Holy God and sinful man and seeks to build a bridge

B. How is Jesus a High Priest?

- 1. That will be the focus of this book for the next six chapters... we will be swimming in the sea of truth established by this one statement

Psalm 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

- 2. Simply put, Jesus is a High Priest because He represents US SINNERS to God by offering His blood as a perfect sacrifice, and praying for us based on that blood... AND He represents God to us sinners by displaying the perfect image of God and by speaking the truth of God as God’s final word to the human race

C. What is the Greatness of Jesus as High Priest?

The author of Hebrews has been establishing the greatness of Jesus Christ again and again... especially by comparing Him to the greatest of the great in the Old Testament

Hebrews 1: Jesus is greater than all the Prophets... God’s final word to the human race

Hebrews 1-2: Jesus is greater than all the angels... they are merely servants, winds, flames of fire

Hebrews 3: Jesus is greater than Moses... he is a servant in God’s house, He is a Son over it

Hebrews 4: Jesus is greater than Joshua... the rest Joshua gave was merely temporary

Hebrews 5-7: Jesus is greater than Aaron... they are sinful High Priests, He is perfect and final

1. Great in His Person

Hebrews 4:14 ... we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God

- a. Jesus is a great High Priest because He was great in and of Himself, long before He became a High Priest
- b. He is great because He is God the Son... the second person of the Trinity
- c. We have already meditated on this theme in Hebrews 1

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

- d. Since Jesus is the Son of God, everything He does as our High Priest will be perfectly acceptable to God

On the Mount of Transfiguration, the pleasure of God in the Son is clearly expressed... Jesus in perfectly radiant robes, shining with the glory of God

Matthew 17:5 a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.

How could we have a greater High Priest than that??

2. Great in His Journey

Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God

- a. In the Old Covenant, the Aaronic priests took the blood of the animal sacrifices into the Holy of Holies as a symbolic covering for sin
- b. Jesus went on a vastly greater journey after His sacrifice... He passed through the heavens up to the throne of God itself
- c. The word "heavens" gives a sense of the circles of existence above us... Paul speaks of being caught up to the third heaven
- d. The heavens are a created realm

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- e. Jesus' infinite journey goes beyond heaven, because God lives ABOVE the heavens

Psalm 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Psalm 57:5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

- f. Jesus goes ABOVE ALL CREATED REALMS right to the throne of God itself to save us from our sins

Hebrews 7:26 Such a high priest meets our need-- one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

There our Great High Priest has offered His own blood for us... right before the throne of Almighty God

3. Great in His Sympathy Toward Us as Sinners

Hebrews 4:15 For 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 was without sin.

- a. This is one of the most incredible themes in this passage... indeed in the whole Bible
- b. Jesus, the perfectly Holy One, is perfectly sympathetic to us as sinners
- c. The Greek word is literally, *sumpatheo*... the English word sympathize comes directly from its letters... it means to unite your own feelings with someone else's
- d. He is inviting, gentle, meek, lowly, easy to approach for anyone who KNOWS HIMSELF to be a sinner
- e. The verse uses a DOUBLE NEGATIVE as if to strengthen the assurance in our minds... we ought to be strongly motivated to come to Jesus as our Great High Priest because WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS UNABLE to sympathize
 - i) The word "unable" shows the limitation it would be on the character of Jesus
 - ii) Like when some people, thinking they are being humble, say ridiculous things about God like this

"God is too busy spinning the planets and running the universe to care about my little problems."

- iii) What a DISHONOR to the omnipotent God!!! God is powerful enough BOTH to spin the planets/run the universe AS WELL AS to care about your little problems

- iv) So also this verse shows what a dishonor it would be to Christ to say He is INCAPABLE of being sympathetic to us as tempted sinners
- f. Jesus is GREAT in His sympathies toward us... moved deeply with compassion toward us as we struggle with the effects of our own sins and those of others
- g. As Jesus watches us struggle with temptations linked to our flesh, He knows exactly what it is like to be tempted; He is a mild, gentle, faithful, loving priest who will welcome us warmly into the throne room of grace
- h. He will not stand powerful in the doorway with His arms across His chest, scowling at you when you bring your weak, tempted, distressed, harassed soul to the throne room of grace for the twentieth time today
- i. He is MOVED with compassion for us all
- j. Why? ...

4. Great in His Temptations

Hebrews 4:15 For 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 was without sin.

- a. Jesus' compassion for us in our temptations and trials is certainly linked to His incarnation...
 - i) He shared our flesh... He lived a life in the flesh, feeling its pulls, its desires, its weaknesses, its afflictions
 - ii) He knows BY EXPERIENCE what it is to be hungry... He was tempted in the desert by the devil when He had not eaten for forty days
 - iii) He knows BY EXPERIENCE what it is to be poor... He had no place to lay His head, but went about from place supported by financial contributions from some wealthy women; eating free grain plucked by hand from people's harvests
 - iv) He knows BY EXPERIENCE what it is to be weary to the bone... He fell asleep in the back of a boat, laying on a cushion, and was so exhausted that even a storm did not wake Him
 - v) He knows BY EXPERIENCE what it is to be rejected by people who should love Him and embrace Him... His own Jewish people despised and rejected Him, and handed Him over to the Romans

vi) He knows BY EXPERIENCE what it is to suffer pain and death... none of us will ever experience the level of torture, humiliation, and degradation... who can speak of what it is like to be mocked, spat upon, flogged, tried publicly, rejected by a mob, condemned to death, and then crucified

vii) Jesus has been tempted in every way just as we are...

b. Infinite mystery: the temptation of Jesus cannot be fathomed by our minds

i) Our temptations are linked not merely to our flesh—our physical drives—but also to our sin nature

ii) We were born sinners in Adam, born with a tendency to rebel against God

iii) We also build up temptations for ourselves by developing HABITS of sin through past rebellions... we become ADDICTED to sin through past actions... Jesus NEVER was addicted to sin

iv) James describes our temptations in this way

James 1:14-15 each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

v) These words can not be ascribed to Jesus... He had NOTHING INSIDE HIM dragging Him away from loving obedience to His Father

vi) How then can we say that Jesus' temptations were REAL TEMPTATIONS? Was it not like the pull of a magnet on wood? No real attraction? No real compulsion??

vii) Friends, I cannot lay open for you and resolve this INFINITE MYSTERY... all I can do is say "Jesus was God... as such He could not be tempted by evil or dragged away or enticed; but Jesus was also human; as such He was tempted in every way just as we are..."

c. Bottom line: Jesus is a GREAT High Priest for us because He is so compassionate on us in our weakness, our temptations... because He experienced it all Himself

d. BUT there is a key difference as well...

5. Great in His Holiness

Hebrews 4:15 we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin.

- a. Jesus NEVER sinned!! This makes Him a perfect High Priest for us... because He was perfectly holy, and therefore acceptable to God in every way

Hebrews 7:26 Such a high priest meets our need-- one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

- b. Jesus is the most tempted man in history... He met every temptation to its MAXIMUM LEVEL and defeated each one... we sinners cave in at some point, all of us
- c. For example: a man with a temper may resolve to get through a day without any anger at all; Satan begins to work on him... his wife may say something that hurts his pride; his children may annoy him with constant requests; his boss may embarrass him in front of others at a staff meeting; a driver may cut him off and then honk at him and gesture at him; when he gets home, he is like a ticking time bomb; someone says something that becomes the straw that broke the camel's back... he explodes in rage as Satan cackles with delight... BUT THAT MAN DID NOT FEEL THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF TEMPTATION because he gave in eventually!!
- d. Jesus felt 30 plus years of temptations, day after day, and never gave in to a single one... he was like Samson killing one thousand Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey: ONE AT A TIME, and not one of those Philistines defeated Samson; Jesus was mightier than Samson, because he took on over thirty years of the most powerful temptations Satan could muster and he never once sinned
- e. This makes Jesus not only a perfect High Priest to represent us to God, but also the perfect Captain to help us defeat our own temptations

Summary: See then the greatness of our High Priest: Great in His person as the Son of God, great in His journey through the heavens to the throne of God, great in His sympathy toward us as sinners, great in His experience in temptations, and great in His perfect holiness

This is the greatness of our High Priest... now let's consider:

III. The Greatness of Our Need

A. "Time of Need"

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

1. Verse 16 clearly speaks of our time of need

- a. “help” = assistance... we can’t make it on our own; Greek word was a nautical term, used in Acts 27 during Paul’s shipwreck, speaking of cables passed under the ship to keep it from coming apart
- b. “time of need” = timely help, like cavalry over the hill at the key moment of battle

2. Our “weakness” (vs. 15)

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses

- a. The weaknesses are moral... our infirmities... our double-mindedness... our tendency to be tempted and to fall into sin; our HABITS of sin
- b. The whole context here is TEMPTATION and the fierce battle with sin
- c. We are CONSTANTLY in a time of need
- d. There is never a time in which we are not assaulted, under siege, fighting sin; some times are worse than others... but it is ALWAYS a time of need

B. Our Need Described

1. The infinite journey before us

Romans 8:29 [we are] to be conformed to the likeness of his Son

Matthew 5:48 [we are] to be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect

Hebrews 12:1 [we are to] throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and [to] run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

The Christian life is portrayed as a long-distance race that will take every ounce of strength you have, every fiber of your being stretched taut, every moment of concentration in order to finish

It is also portrayed as a battle:

Philippians 2:12 continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling

Thus Paul speaks of both in his final words to Timothy:

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2. The combined power of our enemies: the devil, the world, our flesh

These three enemies—Satan and the world on the outside, the sinful nature on the inside—conspire to make every step of your salvation journey as perilous as walking through no-man’s land in World War I, thirty feet from the enemy lines with four machine-gun nests spitting bullets all around you, the air thick with lead

We have GREAT NEEDS

C. What We Need: Mercy and Grace

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

1. Mercy and Grace are almost interchangeable terms in NT theology... very difficult to separate them or draw distinctions
2. Mercy: God’s actions to alleviate suffering... especially the suffering caused by sin
3. Grace: God’s actions to cover our past sins and give us strength to avoid future sins

IV. The Greatness of Our Privilege: Full Access to the Throne of Grace

A. Incalculable Privilege!! Full Access to God

^{KJV} ***Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace***

1. Throne = place of God’s sovereign power... where God rules supreme
2. Ordinarily for us sinners... a place of sheer terror
 - a. Throne of righteousness... where God shows Himself righteous by destroying all evil
 - b. Throne of justice... where God punishes all transgressors of His Holy Law
 - c. Throne of omnipotence... where God displays His awesome power to destroy all His enemies and render them like mud under His feet
3. But for us in CHRIST... this is the **Throne of Grace**
 - a. Where God by His sovereign power extends grace to us sinners in Christ
 - b. Because Jesus has shed His blood on the cross, and as our Great High Priest has gone through the heavens into God’s presence... the throne of God is now for us a RIVER OF GRACE

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

B. Old Covenant: All About Restrictions

1. There was a barrier around Mount Sinai, saying “Thus far you may come, and no further!”
2. The Tabernacle was all about barriers: courtyards barring access to the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place
3. The Law of Moses was all about barriers and restrictions: only the Levites could come into the Holy Place and touch the holy things; AND only the High Priests, the descendents of Aaron could enter the Most Holy Place, and that only once a year
4. This Old Covenant was about YOU MAY NOT ENTER or YOU WILL DIE
5. The boldness needed to come into the Holy Place was evident by the number of times God threatened with death those who approached Him

Exodus 28:35 Aaron must wear it when he ministers. The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the LORD and when he comes out, so that he will not die.

Exodus 28:42-43 "Make linen undergarments as a covering for the body, reaching from the waist to the thigh. ⁴³ Aaron and his sons must wear them whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting or approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place, so that they will not incur guilt and die.

Exodus 30:20-21 Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die. Also, when they approach the altar to minister by presenting an offering made to the LORD by fire, ²¹ they shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die.

6. When Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, arrogantly offered unauthorized fire to the Lord contrary to His command, fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them; Aaron was warned not to show any outward forms of grief or mourning for his dead sons or he would DIE... and,

Leviticus 10:7 Do not leave the entrance to the Tent of Meeting or you will die, because the LORD's anointing oil is on you." So they did as Moses said.

Friends, does this give you a sense of the BOLDNESS we must have to enter the presence of such a HOLY GOD

But because of the blood of Jesus, we are commanded to have BOLDNESS to enter

C. New Covenant: All About Freedom of Access

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 3:12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

1. God is opening WIDE the door into His presence...
2. He is commanding us to come in as often as we want, as often as we need
3. The time of restriction is OVER!!!

V. Application #1: Let Us Hold Fast to Our Faith

Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

- A. The Goal of Hebrews: the Ongoing Life of Faith
- B. The Exhortation Here: Hold Firmly to the faith we profess
 1. Our original confession to Jesus: “I am a sinner, Lord... apart from you, I am eternally lost! I have violated your holy laws and sinned greatly against you. Lord, I believe you are the Son of God who took on a human body and died on the cross for my sins. I trust in you to be my Savior and Lord!”
 2. That was our original profession of faith
 3. Here, as over and over again in Hebrews, we’re being exhorted to hold firmly onto that original profession
- C. We Have Not Yet Finished Our Race; We Need to Keep Trusting in Jesus, Keep Confessing His Name
- D. We MUST Have Continual Help from God’s grace to hold firmly our confession of Christ

VI. Application #2: Let Us Draw Near to Get Help

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- A. Come to Christ for Salvation!!!
- B. HOW? By Prayer!!!!... the “Throne of Grace” we presently access by faith through prayer
- C. Come to Christ in Time of Need
- D. Recognize that EVERY MOMENT is a “time of need”

“I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord”

We can never say to the Lord, “I got this one, Lord... I can handle this one on my own!!”

EVERY MOMENT we are in need... every moment we are in danger... every moment, we need to draw near to the throne of grace and receive mercy and grace to help us

1. Early mornings are times of NEED

As you are having your quiet time and the day hasn’t even happened yet, get on your knees and draw near the throne of grace... ask for mercy, plead for grace to help you as you face the challenges you assume will happen that day. Picture your day... think about it: you are a student, you are taking this course or having that test or meeting with other students for a certain purpose: **HELP ME, LORD! I NEED YOUR MERCY!! I NEED YOUR GRACE OR I AM LOST!!** Think about how Satan is going to marshal spiritual attacks on you; put on the armor of God, standing in the throne room of grace; put on each element with prayer to God that they be effective in your struggle against the temptations you will face that day.

2. Times of Temptation are times of NEED

Some particular lust is assaulting your soul; it is waging war on your peace of mind; perhaps it is a sexual lust, perhaps it is a prideful attitude, a dark cloud of unforgiveness, a pull toward anxiety over money or health or some other problem; **TEMPTATIONS DREADFUL MAGNETIC PULL IS UPON YOU...** it is dragging you to sin... to sin sexually, to sin in complaining or slandering some person, to sin by laziness or procrastination, to sin by anxiety saying “O no! What will we do? What will happen to me?” You are in the thick of the battle... **DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE...** go to your merciful and faithful High Priest, and plead with Him, saying “Lord, I don’t want to sin... **I NEED YOUR GRACE RIGHT NOW!!!**”

I think this is the home base of verse 16... but often we look at it as a mop to clean up **AFTER** we’ve sinned

3. Times of sin are times of NEED

You have yielded to some temptation; you are guilty, you are unclean in God's holy sight; you have sinned and done what is displeasing to your loving Father... you feel ashamed, you don't WANT to pray at all because you feel so guilty. Hebrews 4:16 beckons to you to come to the throne of grace with BOLDNESS and get the mercy and grace you need to be restored. You know that if you stay away, if you stay feeling guilty, your conscience accusing you, your eyes cast downwards, your heart ashamed—all that will happen is Satan will accuse you and sideline you and lead you even deeper into more sin; the single instance of lust or greed or laziness will give birth to a second one, then a third... then soon you're in the grip of some evil habit; so when you sin you should run IMMEDIATELY into the throne room of grace and plead with Jesus, "O Lord, FORGIVE ME; I have sinned!! You know what I have done, but I ask you to cleanse me by your mercy and grace, by the blood you shed on the cross!!"

4. Times of Trials are times of NEED

There are trials of many kinds—physical health problems large and small—pain, sickness, a serious diagnosis (cancer, diabetes, heart disease)... or a small issue—a stomach virus, a touch of the flu, a sprained ankle... any physical trial is a time of need: TAKE IT TO THE THRONE ROOM OF GRACE; financial trials are times of need; so also relationship problems: if you're married, troubles with your spouse; if you're single, troubles finding a spouse or discontent in your singleness; friends, ANYTHING THAT CAUSES YOU TROUBLE is a trial... Hebrews 4:16 says to approach the throne of grace with boldness so that you may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need

5. Times of Prosperity are times of NEED

You may not think you need to take this to the throne of grace to receive mercy and grace to help, but you do; prosperity can tempt you to be INDEPENDENT from God, to FORGET God, to think pridefully that you have achieved this success through your own brilliant intellect or sharp business acumen; you may forget that the extra money that is now flowing into your bank account is all God's; you may forget that you will have to give God an account for all your money, all your success; your promotion at work could be a danger to you, tempting you to give your soul to your company or your career and forget your obligations to God and to your family; above all, you may simply forget to THANK GOD for all your prosperity and forget to be SYMPATHETIC to others who are not so prosperous as you. TAKE ALL YOUR SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SOURCE OF IT... WHERE IT CAME FROM!!! TAKE IT BACK TO THE THRONE ROOM OF GRACE SO THAT YOU MAY RECEIVE THE MERCY AND GRACE OF A TRULY HUMBLE ATTITUDE

6. Times of Weariness are times of NEED

Take your weariness to the throne room of grace... ask Jesus to renew you and give you strength... take it to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help

7. Times of Ordinairiness and boredom when it seems NOTHING is going on are times of NEED

When you sit behind the wheel and are about to drive... ask God for mercy and grace to help; when you are cooking a dinner you've cooked a thousand times before, ask God for mercy and grace to do it for His glory; when you are about to go to sleep at the end of an ordinary day, ask God for mercy and grace to fall asleep

BASICALLY, there is **NO TIME** that is not a time of need