

8.14.22 / Worship Confidently / Hebrews 4:14-16

Can you stand in the Throne Room? See Revelation 4

If this metaphorically represents the spiritual center of all reality than there is not space I can occupy which is outside of the heavenly throne room. Where ever we are we exist in the midst of an ongoing reality of all of the angels in the heavenly realms proclaiming the Glory of the Living God. So perhaps I should not ask, can you stand in the Throne Room – since we are standing in the Throne Room by nature of existence in creation. I **should** ask, what's your posture in the Throne Room?

Flat on your face?

Humming half-heartedly while your eyes scan the room?

Trembling while curled up in the corner?

Back to the throne and eyes fixed on other things?

What's your posture in the Throne Room?

While David through explored with us last Sunday a humble posture in the throne room, the passage we'll look at this morning leads us to explore a confident posture in the throne room. It's not a confidence that contradicts the humility that we explored last week. It's actually a confidence that complements that humility. You might call it **humble confidence**.

Listen to this invitation to humble confidence in the throne room in [Hebrews 4:14-16](#).

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

We don't currently follow a ritualistic sacrificial system where a high priest serves as our appointed representative tasked with making us clean before a Holy God. But the original hearers of these verses were very acquainted with such a system and many were still following a tainted version of it.

In order to help us fully understand with the author of Hebrews is saying in this text, I want to step for a moment into the ancient context of the sacrificial system. We'll do that by looking at the book of Leviticus, chapter 16.

16:2

16:3- (This is how Aaron is to enter the Most Holy Place...)

10th day of 7th month

Put on sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body

Tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban.

Because garments are sacred, he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on.

Bring a young bull as a sin offering

Bring two young goats – cast lots – one to sacrifice, one to set free as scapegoat

Slaughter the bull – 12-15, 18b-21, 23-24, 30b (Then, before the Lord you – people – will be clean from all your sins).

Lots a lot of instructions. I'm embarrassed to tell you how long I had to study that list of instructions to even have a general grasp of what was going on.

Illustration: Detailed instructions stress me out! (cooking)

If I was a high priest and I had to follow these instructions so that you all could be clean before God... oh boy would you all be in trouble!

Be that as it may, this (Leviticus 16) was the Jewish framework for right standing with the Living God.

It depended upon a sinful high priest walking through a very complex ritual.

So...

When the author of Hebrews speaks of a great high priest who ascended into heaven – the Jesus who is the son of God – that's an amazing contrast with the sinful undependable high priests the Jewish nation had known for centuries.

Jesus is our perfect high priest. He accomplishes perfectly and completely that to which the annual Leviticus 16 ritual was pointing.

Here's how He did it: Jesus entered the most holy place (the throne room) with a perfect offering! The offering was **His life** given as atonement for sins in place of our lives. We are perhaps more familiar with the physical account of this offering recorded at the end of each of the gospels. Let's listen to a spiritual account of this offering through John's vision in Revelation 5 (read it).

Jesus, our perfect high priest, has entered into the throne room and given the perfect sacrifice. We, who put faith in Jesus, are completely covered by His sacrifice. We can therefore enter into the throne room with confidence. Not prideful confidence in what we have achieved but humble confidence in the power of what Jesus accomplished for us. So as I exist in the throne room and worship the Lord gratefully, sacrificially, freely, exclusively, passionately, and humbly... I can do so **confidently**!

Because Jesus was fully God, His perfect sacrifice on our behalf is 100% dependable. He is the strong and capable conqueror. He is the perfect and loving savior.

One might come to conclude that such a powerful and perfect savior could never relate with us we weak and wounded sinners.

But that would be wrong.

Because Jesus is fully man, He fully understands and has deep compassion for our weak and wounded state.

Our strong savior is not aloof, offering salvation with a distant and stoic reach. He has felt the pain we're feeling and He comes right to where we are. He wraps us up in his strong but wounded arms. He whispers His love with soothing tenderness. He promises His protection with hair-raising power.

So what's my posture in the throne room? It's humble confidence.

I know I'm weak. I never have 100% pure motivations. I follow Jesus one moment and I follow my flesh in the next. I want to be impenetrable, but others can hurt me... easily. I want my peace of mind to rest in Jesus, but circumstances can turn me upside down. And that's true for all of us.

Our confidence before the Lord in the throne room does not depend on how we're doing, It depends on what Jesus did. That's humble confidence.

What might living in the throne room with humble confidence look like for you this week?

Think about it. Write down some thoughts.

To be in the throne room – suggests your eyes are on the king and you're proclaiming His praise.

To be humble – suggests you know He's great and you're so very small.

To have confidence – suggests that you rest secure in God's saving purposes in the midst of whatever is the status of your success, your relationships, your health – you rest secure in God's saving purposes.

Humble confidence in the throne room.

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