

Sermon title: Jesus intercedes for us through the storms of life

Sermon text: Heb 6:19 – 20

Introduction

1. The last exhortation, we considered persecution and suffering. This week we consider the basis for our perseverance: Jesus Himself intercedes for us before God.

2. Today's exhortation builds on our previous study of Heb 13:13 -

a. SaFI

b. Father//Pastor

c. Father//Son

3. In addition, we study 4.14 – 16 to have a better sense of the context.

4. The writer uses a complex metaphor to encourage us to persevere because (1) Jesus is our forerunner and (2) Jesus lives forever to intercede for us through the storms of life.

Jesus' intercession before God – Heb 4.14 – 16

4.14 – Jesus our high priest has ascended into heaven. This is the very dwelling place of God.

4.15 – “empathize with our weaknesses” –This is one word the writer selects. Jesus empathizes with us in our suffering and persecution. Therefore, Jesus our high priest is not just a by-stander.

4.16 – literally "well-timed" or "right on time". Jesus' help is “Just in Time” (JIT); it is never late or insufficient when sought through prayer.

Clarification – Timely help ≠ necessarily timely removal of the problem. It can be timely grace to endure the problem.

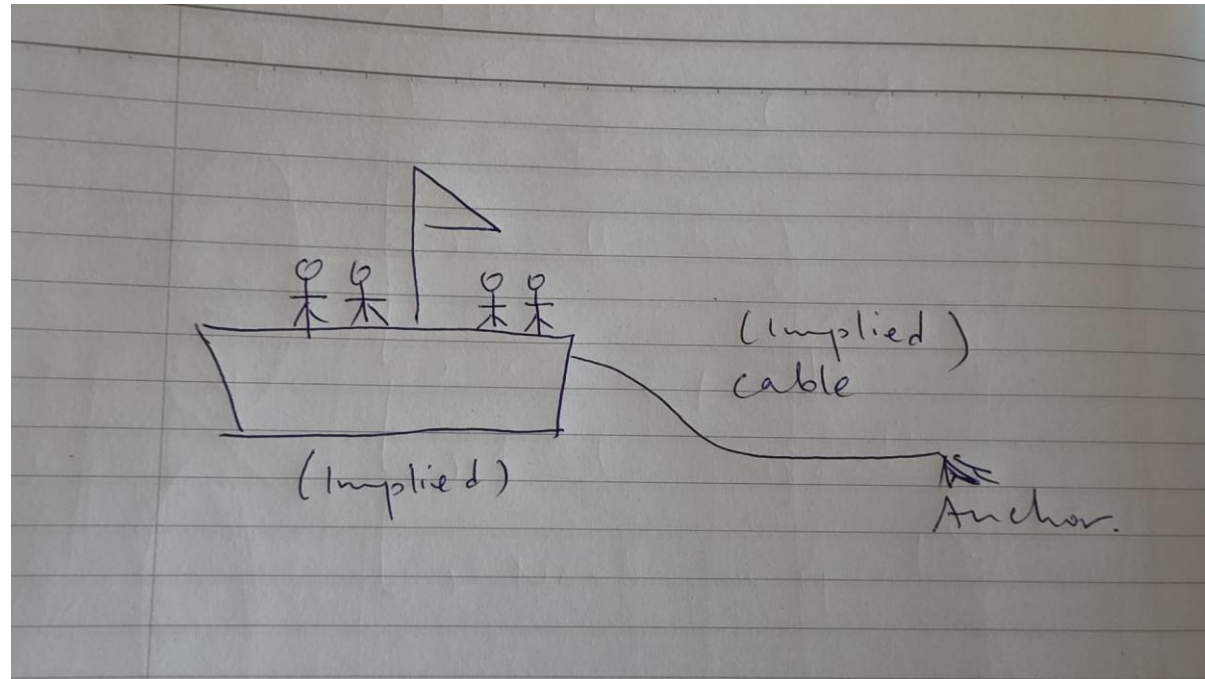
The reason we can confidently approach the throne of grace (Heb 4) is because Jesus has already entered God's presence on our behalf (Heb 6).

19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

“anchor”: This was often referred to as “teeth”. The anchor is the hope secured by Jesus' priestly ministry.

Cable (implied): The cable would connect the anchor to the ship.

Ship (implied): The ship would be carrying passengers.



“Inner sanctuary behind the curtain” : the Holy of Holies – symbolizing the dwelling place of God.

20 where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

“forerunner” – The word "forerunner" refers to one who goes ahead of others.
Picture of the military scout who goes before the battalion.

This is a picture of Jesus arriving into heaven first. He is waiting for the rest of us to join Him.

Note – It is not the case that Jesus got there first and we are all stuck outside.

“high priest” – Ex 28.12 & 21.

1. There are 12 tribes on two shoulder boards and 12 tribes on the breastpiece.
2. The shoulder boards are a picture of the High Priest who supports/carries their burdens/trials/persecution.
3. The breastpiece is a picture of the High Priest who empathizes with their burdens/trials/persecution.
4. “in the order of Melchizedek” – i.e. a continuous eternal priesthood.
5. Jesus’ priesthood is a continuous eternal priesthood with a continuous eternal intercession before God

Application – Jesus intercedes for us through the storms of life

1. SaFI/Vancouver – “we are getting married – admonish me”
2. Father // Pastor – “unbaptize him” & “slap across the face”
3. Father // Son – “get out of the house”

Jesus’ intercessory prayer is in 2 parts -

- a. Jesus sanctifies our prayer (because our prayers are tainted with sin)
- b. Jesus prays according to God’s will (because Jesus knows God’s will)

“Father, grant them stronger backs (i.e. grace) so that they can endure the storms of life. Strengthen them with grace so that they can bear good testimony in times of trials”.

God’s response – “Granted”

C. Storms of Life

1



2



3



B. 3 Christians praying

1

2

3

A. Ship

I. Cable

D. Curtain

E. Jesus the High Priest & Forerunner

1. 12 tribes of Israel on His shoulder boards

2. 12 tribes of Israel on His breastpiece

G. 4.14 – 16

Jesus' Prayer

1. Marriage

2. Father &

Pastor

3. Father &

Son

H. Ark of the Covenant

Cable

F. Inner Sanctuary

1. Marriage

2. Father & Pastor

3. Father & Son

Putting this together (for those taking notes)

1. Jesus is our high priest and wears the breastpiece and shoulder boards.
2. These are pictures which represent all Israel.
3. Jesus is our Forerunner. Like a military scout who goes ahead of the battalion, He has already entered the presence of God on our behalf. He is waiting for the rest of us to enter heaven later.
4. One end of the anchor is tied to the ship containing the (persecuted) community of believers. Believers are pleading for help.

Putting this together (for those taking notes)

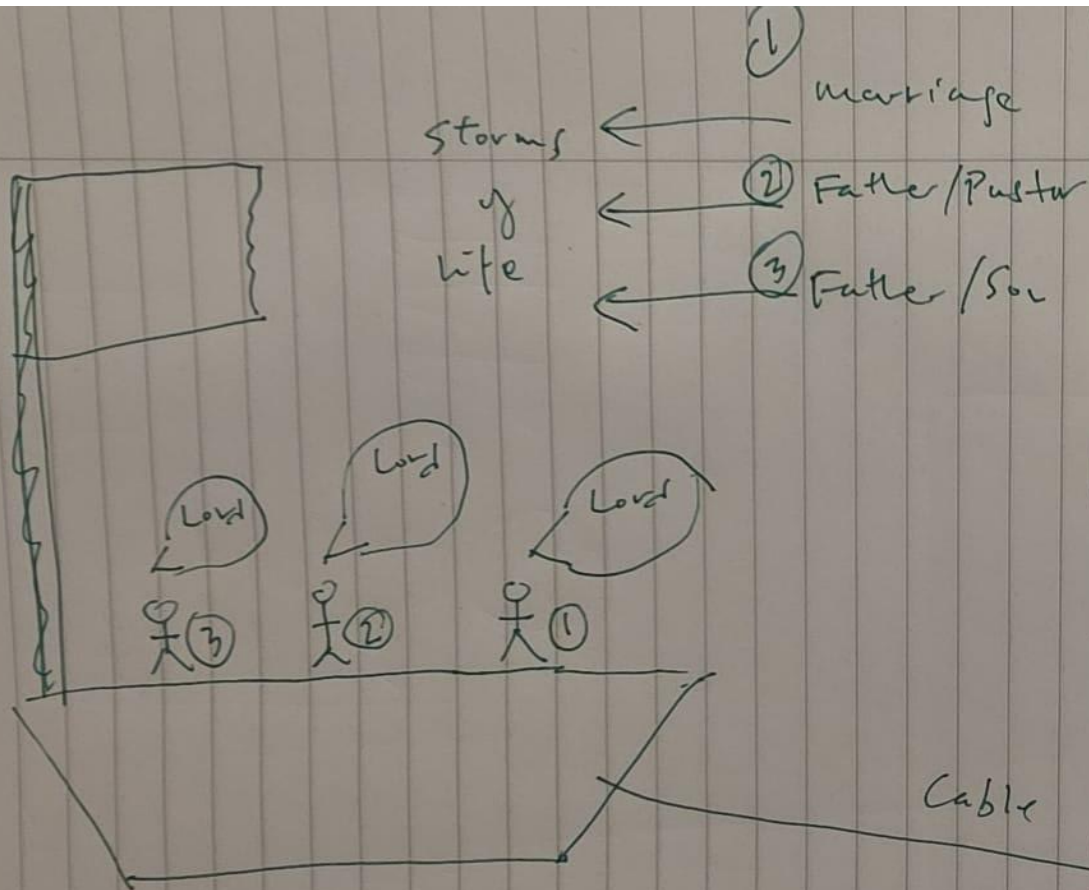
5. The anchor reaches beyond the veil and is firmly secured in the presence of God Himself.
6. Therefore, our hope is secure because it is anchored in God's presence rather than in our circumstances.
7. Jesus makes continual, eternal intercession for the believers before God Himself. Jesus' intercession for believers is always in God's will.
8. Because Jesus' intercession is in God's will, God Himself grants Jesus' petition/prayer.

Challenge - Jesus intercedes for us through the storms of life

- a. We don't KNOW → We don't know Christ's continuing priestly ministry.
- b. We don't BELIEVE → We don't trust His intercession when the storm comes.
- c. Therefore we don't DRAW NEAR → We try to endure the storm in our own strength.

Our challenge for this week

1. Jesus empathizes with us (breastpiece) and is prepared to bear our trials/persecution (shoulder board)
2. Jesus' intercession for us is continual and eternal (like Melchizedek). His intercession for us is always in God's will.
3. God always grants Jesus' petition.
4. Therefore, throughout this week, let us draw near to Jesus and rely upon His continual intercession for us.



Cable

JESUS

Curtain

Inner Sanctuary

Jesus: Forerunner

4.14-16

Intercession (Prayer)

→ marriage

→ Father/Pastor

→ Father/Son

12 tribes
shoulder

12 tribes
breast

Ark

God

Cable

Jesus: High Priest



Anchor