

Jesus Understands Hebrews 4:14-16

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Have you ever felt _____, believed that no one knows what you're going through? Today, we're going to think about the One who _____. God has spoken to us in the Bible, and we want to _____ what He says.

A farmer had just relaxed on the front porch when a newsboy delivered the evening paper. The boy saw the sign, "Puppies for Sale." He got off his bicycle and said to the farmer, "How much for a puppy, mister?" "Twenty-five dollars, son." The boy's face dropped. "Sir, could I at least see them?" The farmer whistled, and in a moment the mother dog came bounding around the corner of the house followed by four cute puppies, wagging their tails and yipping with joy. A little later another puppy came straggling around the house, dragging a hind leg. "What's the matter with that puppy, mister?" the boy asked. "Son, that puppy is crippled. We took her to the vet and the doctor took an X-ray. She doesn't have a hip joint and that leg will never be right."

The boy dropped his bike, reached for his collection bag, and took out a fifty-cent piece. "Mister," the boy said, "Please, I want to buy that puppy. I'll pay you fifty cents every week until the 25 dollars is paid. Honest I will, mister." The farmer replied, "But Son, you don't seem to understand. That puppy will never, never be able to run or jump. That puppy is going to be a cripple forever. Why in the world would you want a puppy like that?" The boy paused, and then he pulled up his pant leg, exposing that all too familiar iron brace and leather knee strap, holding a poor, twisted leg caused by polio. The boy said, "Mister, this puppy's going to need someone who understands and loves him." My friend, we all need _____ too.

Our reading today comes from The Letter To The Hebrews 4:14-16.

Have there been times when you _____ someone, just anyone, would understand and love you with all your faults and troubles? There is someone who _____! He understands you and _____ you. You may be _____ inside or outside; He understands. You may be _____, but He understands. Your life may be _____; you may feel like quitting. He understands. You may have been offended and have reason to be _____. He understands. He _____ all about you. He knows what you've been through. He knows how you _____. He knows what you've _____. He understands and loves you in _____ of it all.

The Bible describes Jesus as one who understands all our _____. **Read the text, Hebrews 4:14-16, again.** Jesus experienced in his short life all the struggles and temptations that we _____. He knows what it is to be _____; and He also knows what it is to be _____.

_____. He knows what it is to _____ and to be _____. He knows how _____ it is to do what is right when things are difficult. He knew the _____ of the world turning against Him.

The Bible says that Jesus “knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He himself _____ what was in man” (John 2:24-25). As a human, Jesus understood hunger and thirst. Matthew 4:2 says, “And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was _____.” While hanging on the cross, Jesus, “knowing all that was now finished, He said to fulfill the Scriptures, ‘I _____.’” We also know Jesus got _____ at times. **Read John 4:5-6.** Yes, Jesus understood what it’s like to have the basic _____ of life.

Jesus never had a _____ or any children. No doubt He understood what it was like to be _____. His father probably died before his ministry began, leaving Him with a mother and several siblings to _____. Isaiah 53:3 says, “He was despised and rejected by men; a man of _____, and acquainted with _____; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

He had a hard life as an itinerant _____. He was _____ by some and _____ by others. He never owned a home, walked everywhere He went, and knew what it was like to be _____. Can you imagine from the time of your birth people _____ that you were illegitimate? Can you imagine the soldiers of King Herod the Great hunting you to take your _____? **Read Matthew 2:16.**

Can you imagine your family thinking that you were _____? The Bible says, “And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, ‘He is out of his mind’” (Mark 3:21). The people who were supposed to know Him, and know Him _____, didn’t understand how He could work miracles and teach such great things?

Can you imagine your own family and friends that you grew up with refusing to _____ you? John 1:11 says, “He came to his own, and his own people did not _____ him.” The people of his home town, Nazareth, rejected him and even tried to _____ Him. **Read Mark 6:2-6.**

Can you imagine your disciple and friend betraying you for _____? **Read Matthew 26:14-16.** Thirty pieces of silver? Exodus 21:32 says that this is the price of a _____. What treachery! Beyond that, can you imagine being betrayed with a _____? That happened to Jesus. Can you imagine being asked by your _____ to be crucified? The Father sent his Son into this world to _____ Himself as an act of love and to deliver us from our _____. It was most difficult for Jesus to face the _____. He understood how utterly _____ and humiliating crucifixion was in the first century. In Matthew 26:38 Jesus said, “My soul is very _____, even to the point of death.” Have you ever been so sorrowful, that you wished you could just _____ that very moment? The Bible describes His prayer in the garden in Luke

22:42 this way: “And being in agony he _____ more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.”

Can you imagine your close _____ and disciple lying three times about knowing you? **Read the boast of Peter in Matthew 26:33-35.** But when the pressure came upon him, he buckled under the pressure as Jesus said he would. Peter denied Him not once, not twice, but three times; and the last time in the very presence of _____.

Can you imagine having been bound and brought into _____ where people falsely accused you with lies? Can you imagine people purposefully twisting your _____ to condemn you? Can you imagine _____ on the cross, bruised and bleeding, while the people around you were mocking you? **Read Matthew 27:41-43.** Can you imagine remaining _____ during all their ugly mockery? Can you imagine being in excruciating _____ at the hands of very wicked men and never striking back?

Jesus understands the good and the bad, the easy and the hard, and the fair and the unfair. He knows everything about His people and His _____. In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 Jesus _____ to each of the seven churches of Asia. To each of the seven he said, “I know your _____.” He knew the _____ and the _____. He praised them for the _____ and rebuked them for the _____. He praised them for their toil, their perseverance, their sound doctrine, their faithfulness in tribulation, their willingness to suffer poverty and even blasphemy for the name of Christ, and for how they lived, and how they showed love, their faith; He loved that about them, and their _____ to the Lord. But He rebuked them when they left their first love, when they compromised, when they supposedly were alive but had died, when they were distastefully lukewarm. Jesus knows about your _____ life too, whether you’re growing or dying or lukewarm. He knew churches sometimes _____ to be what they should be; and He rebuked and warned them because He _____ them.

He knows when you’re _____. I love God’s faithful promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13. The Bible says: “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation also will provide a way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” God understands your _____ and He will not let temptation and trials so overwhelm you that you can’t _____ them. When you can’t stand the temptation, the Lord will make a way of _____ so that you don’t fall into sin. He’ll bless you and be there for you. He promises, “I will never _____ you nor _____ you” (Hebrews 13:5). The God who understands is also the God who stands by us to _____ us through all the struggles that we face.

Jesus knows when life has _____ you with fear or heartache. He knows life can be overwhelming, but not one cause of your _____ escapes His attention. **Read 1 Peter 5:6-11.**

Jesus knows your victories and your _____. He knows your _____. If you _____ Him, He knows it. If you have _____ or forgotten him, He knows it too. If you've let _____ come into your life, He knows it; and if you're overcome by that sin, He knows it and He grieves. In spite of all He loves us anyway and wants us to _____ and to come to Him. He loves us _____ in our sins and weaknesses. To the lukewarm church at Laodicea, that He was ready to spit out of His mouth, the Lord Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and I knock. And if anyone hears my voice and opens that door, I will come in to him and I'll eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

Though Laodicea was lukewarm and so offensive that Jesus would _____ them out of His mouth, still Jesus took the initiative to _____ a relationship with them. He knocked at the door and He told them they needed to _____. The Lord wants a relationship with you. He wants to be your _____. He took the first _____ in building that relationship by offering Himself on the cross to atone for your sins, our sins. Won't you respond to His love and His _____? Won't you let Him into your life? Put your trust in Him and obey Him today!

No matter who you are or what you've done in the past, the Lord's heart is big enough and open enough to _____ you and welcome you into his family if you're willing to come to him humbly and penitently. Saul of Tarsus was the _____ of sinners, but God forgave him. The apostle Paul said, "I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received _____ because I acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to _____ sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an _____ to those who were to believe in him for eternal life" (1 Timothy 1:12-16). If God could forgive Saul of Tarsus, he can forgive you, too!

Won't you humbly come to Jesus? Come in love and faith by _____ of your sins, _____ Him to be the Lord and Christ, and by being _____ in water? The Lord is longing for you to come to Him in love and _____. "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38). When you're baptized, He'll add you to His church. You'll be His child.

Sometimes Christians _____ away from the Lord. If you've forgotten Jesus, you've built a spiritual _____ between the Lord and yourself. Come back to the Lord today by repenting. Get back to church. Just as the Lord forgave Peter, He'll forgive you.