Introduction:

1. A Review: **“Let us” in Hebrews address our relationships in three ways:**
   1. **Our relationship to each other -** “*Consider how to stimulate one another*…”   
      (Hebrews 10:24)
   2. **Our relationship to our goal of heaven –** 
      1. “*Fear*” (4:1);
      2. “*Be diligent*” (4:11);
      3. “*Press on to maturity*” (6:1);
      4. “*Hold fast the confession of our hope*” (10:23);
      5. “*Lay aside every encumbrance & sin* (12:1) & “*Run with endurance*.” (12:1)
   3. **Our relationship to our heavenly Father and Jesus.**
      1. “*Hold fast & Draw near*” (4:14-16; 10:22);
      2. “S*how gratitude*” (12:28);
      3. “G*o out to Him… bearing His reproach*” (13:13);
      4. “*offer up a sacrifice of praise*…” (13:15)
2. ***“Since we have a great High Priest…”*** (4:14)
   1. **Why is our High Priest *“great”*?** 
      1. He *“****passed through the heavens****”* & sits **at the right hand of God** for us. (4:14; 9:24; Mark 16:19; Ephesians 1:20-23)
      2. He *“****had to be made like His brethren****”* and thus is able to *“****come to (our) aid****” having been “****tempted… as we are, yet without sin****”.* (2:17-18; 4:15)
      3. **He is at God’s right hand to intercede for us** who **understands our needs**. (7:25; Romans 8:34)
3. ***“Let us hold fast our confession…”*** (cf., 3:6, 14)
   1. **Our conviction that Jesus is the Christ is the Son of God and that His is reigning in His kingdom!** (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9; Matthew 16:16)
   2. **How do we do this?** What led to our confession in the 1st place? (cf., Revelation 2:5; Hebrews 10:32)
4. ***“Let draw near to the throne of grace…”*** (4:16)
   1. **God wants us *“near” (“cling to”)* to Him.** 
      1. **What keeps us away?** (James 4:8; Hebrews 10:1; 7:19, 25; Ephesians 2:13)
   2. ***“Draw near to the throne of grace…”*** (Isaiah 6:1-4) Where our glorious and powerful Father reigns in great humility.
      1. **Only by His grace**. (Esther 4:11ff)… God holds out the golden scepter to us.
      2. With “***boldness***” (cheerful courage; openly) because of His promises,   
         (I John 5:14) **yet with reverence**! (Matthew 6:9)
5. ***“That we may receive mercy & find grace…”***
   1. **We *“receive mercy”…***
      1. **What is mercy?** “…**not simply** possessed of **pity** but **actively compassionate**…” (Vine) ; “the sense of human wretchedness coupled with the **impulse to relieve** it.” (Vincent)
         1. Like love, **mercy includes action**. (1 John 3:1)
      2. We are invited to *“****cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you****.”*   
         (1 Peter 5:7; Mark 4:38; Job?)
   2. **We *“find grace”…***
      1. ***“Grace”*** - “divine favor or regard” “Unmerited… not wages”
      2. **Conditional?** - (John 9:6-7; 1 Peter 1:3, 22-25)
      3. **What it asks of us…** (Romans 12:1-2)
      4. **“*Find*” -** after searching. (Matthew 7:7-8, 14; 11:29; cf., Titus 2:11-14)
6. ***“Mercy & grace… to help in time of need…”***
   1. **“*To help…”* -** nautical term referring to “**frapping a vessel**”. (Acts 27:17)
   2. **God helps His children.** (Hebrews 2:16)
   3. **How?** (Acts 20:32; Acts 14:22; 15:32)
   4. **We need God’s strength**! (1 Peter 4:11)