

"Jesus is Superior because of His Humanity"

Hebrews 2:5-18

Part 3

Introduction: Tonight as we come back to our study of the book of Hebrews we are again stepping into a section where the writer is focused upon the humanity of our Lord. The section we are looking at is Hebrews 2:5-18 and in this section we have already looked at 2 points about the humanity of Jesus Christ. In these 2 points we see the blessings which come to us because Jesus Christ became a man.

Now before we get started tonight I needed to say that the passage which is before us is one which includes great spiritual riches. When we study this text we cannot help but to come away blessed when we see what the humanity of Jesus Christ means for you and I that have a personal relationship with Him.

- 1) **Jesus Christ became a man to restore our lost destiny.**

Notice Hebrews 2:5

The key to understanding this verse is the phrase "the world to come". God has not promised to the angels that they will rule in the world to come.

Notice Hebrews 2:6a

The very first word of this verse tells us that the writer is pointing to a contrast. The contrast is between the angels and man. God had not promised that the angels would rule the world to come but to man he has.

Notice Hebrews 2:6b-8

Here the writer quotes from Psalm 8 and he writes concerning man. Man was made a little lower than the angels for a short period of time. God has appointed that ALL things were to be placed under the rule of man. But as of now we do not see the fulfillment of these verses. There are 3 reasons why man has not seen the fulfillment

1. Sin
2. Death
3. The curse

That brings us to the next verse.

Notice Hebrews 2:9

Here we see the answer to our problem. The Answer is Jesus. He was made a little lower than the angels for a short period of time. This is a reference to His humanity. Jesus became a man so that He could be our Substitute. Let me show you what Isaiah says about this:

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ *Surely he hath borne **our** griefs, and carried **our** sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was wounded for **our** transgressions, he was bruised for **our** iniquities: the chastisement of **our** peace was upon him; and **with his stripes we are healed.***

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

Isaiah gives us the details of what the writer of Hebrews speaks of in 2:9. The point is that Jesus became the Substitute for every man and

when He went to the cross and He died for our sins. On the 3rd day He rose from the dead and in all of this He defeated sin, the curse, and the death. Therefore, we know that because Jesus became a man and He was our Substitute someday we will be restored to our original position.

2) **Jesus became a Man to restore our lost unity.**

Part 2

Notice Hebrews 2:10

Last time we were together we started to look at this verse but we did not by any means cover all that is within it.

The phrase, "*For it became him*" looks back to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for all men and it also looks to the character of God. The phrase means, "*it was fitting*" to the character of God that Jesus would become a man and that he would suffer and die on the cross for the sins of every man. You see it was the suffering of the cross and Jesus death that magnified the character of God. The cross and the suffering of our Lord demonstrated:

1. The wisdom of God.
2. The love of God.
3. The grace of God.
4. The righteousness of God.

The verse goes on with even more spiritual riches.

Notice Hebrews 2:11

We also see that Jesus was made the Captain of our salvation. Last time we looked at this word and the meaning. The word is:

***Archēgos**- one that takes the lead in anything and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer.*

Jesus dove into the stormy waters of death and surfaced on the other side victorious as He rose from the dead. The writer of Hebrews tells us why He did this.

¹⁰ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

We see that it was to bring many sons into glory. The idea is that Jesus has made a way for us to safely reach the heavenly shore. He does not stand back and tell us the way to go but He has went before us and now He takes us by the hand and He walks us through the valley of the shadow of death. This brings us to where we are tonight.

Hebrews 2:10

¹⁰ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Now I want to share with you some thoughts from the phrase that I bolded in this verse. The writer says something here that we need to look closely at because there is something here that is absolutely beautiful. The writer tells us that Jesus was made perfect through sufferings. This makes me ask some questions, "Was Jesus not perfect

when He came into this world? How did the sufferings which He went through make Him perfect?"

There is something that we need to keep in mind in order to understand what the writer is saying here. Let us remember that the writer is presenting the superiority of Jesus **because of His humanity**. So this phrase is connected to His humanity. But that is not all. It is also connected to His title "Captain of our salvation".

Let us pull this together to see something that will bless our hearts. Jesus was perfect "in Person" when He came into this world. This is not talking about the perfection of His Person. The perfection which the writer is setting forth here is the "perfection of His experience in humanity". Let me show you the words of Ray Stedman on this thought.

*Imagine that Jesus came on Monday and on Friday they took him out and crucified him, hanging him on the cross, and that he died, just as it is recorded in the Scriptures, bearing the sins of the world. Would he still have been a perfect Savior? Certainly he would have been perfect as far as bearing our guilt is concerned -- that only required a sinless Savior. But he would not have been perfect as far as bearing our infirmities, our weaknesses, is concerned. He would have been able to fit us for heaven some day, **but never able to make us ready for earth right now**. In such a case, we could always say (as too often we do say, anyway), "How can God expect me to live a perfect life in my situation? After all, I'm only human and Christ has never been where I am. What does he know of my pressures, what does he know of what I'm up against?" But he was made perfect through his suffering. He does know, he does know!*

You see, Jesus became "perfect through His sufferings" so that He then, as the Captain of our salvation, could identify with every single situation that we face in our lives. Remember that as our Captain He was the Pioneer of every situation we face. That means that whatever we face He has already went through it. Let us consider some of what our Lord suffered while He was here on this earth in all of His humanity.

1. **Spiritual pressure.**

One of the most difficult pressures of life is spiritual pressure that comes from the demonic world. It comes many times when God places before us a time of testing that requires surrender to Him. It comes when we do not have the resources to do what we are called to do. It is then that the demonic world attacks and the pressure begins to mount and fear begins to set in. We desire to retreat but there is no way to escape the trial that is before us. Let me remind you that Jesus in His humanity went through pressure far greater than we face.

Matthew 26:36-44

³⁶ Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

³⁷ And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

³⁸ Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

³⁹ And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

⁴⁰ And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

⁴³ And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

We have looked at this in the past but let me remind you that this was a spiritual battle our Lord endured. As He faced the cross Satan was doing his best to pull Jesus out of the will of God. In this text we see Jesus holding tightly to His fellowship with the Father. This is the only place Jesus ever referred to God as "My Father". Let me show you how great the pressure was.

Luke 22:41-44

⁴¹ And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

⁴² Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

⁴³ And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

*⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and **his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.***

Luke describes the same scene but he gives us the details of the pressure our Lord experienced. It caused Him to sweat great drops of blood.

Therefore, when we face the spiritual pressures of life our Lord can identify with us.

2. **Physical sickness and mental anguish.**

Another one of the struggles in life can be the sickness and disease of this world. When we read of the life of Jesus we see nowhere that He was ever sick but I want you to know that every sickness and every disease was experienced in His body. Let me show you.

Isaiah 53:4

*⁴ Surely he hath borne our **griefs**, and carried our **sorrows**: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

We need to define the word "griefs" and the word "sorrows".

Griefs - According to the Blue Letter Bible it means "sickness" or "disease".

When Jesus hung on the cross He took upon Him every one of our sins.

Isaiah 53:6

*⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

Every one of your sins and my sins was "laid" upon the back of our Lord. But there was far more to His death than just the weight of our sin. He also took with that sin sickness and disease which was the physical effects of the sin. You see every sickness and disease that has ever entered the world is the result of sin. There was no sickness or disease before the entrance of sin into the world. So when Jesus took all of our sin He also experienced every sickness and disease that we would experience as we pass through this world. Every cold you have had,

every terminal disease that people have suffered through, and every discomfort from the sickness our Lord already lived while He hung on the cross.

Sorrows - According to the Blue Letter Bible the meaning here is twofold. The word refers to "physical and mental pain". Along with the sickness that came with sin there was also pain both mental and physical. This would include depression, sorrow, discouragement and so on. When Jesus took our sin He also experienced with our sin the mental effects as well as the pain that has been caused by sickness and disease.

This is why He is called the Captain of our salvation. He has been through every situation that you and I face in this life. He knows exactly what we are going through. This is all because of His suffering. He was made perfect in experience through the sufferings which He faced in His life.

Let me give you one more.

3. **Temptation**

Matthew 4:1-10

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

I am going to just touch on 3 areas of testing which our Lord faced.

I. **Lust of the Flesh**

² *And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

³ *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

⁴ *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

II. **Pride of Life**

⁵ *Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

⁶ *And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

⁷ *Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

III. **Lust of the Eyes**

⁸ *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

⁹ *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

¹⁰ *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

Conclusion: Jesus did not just come to earth to teach us the way to heaven but He also came to teach us how to live while we are here on this earth. He became a man so that we could follow our Captain who set the example. He was made perfect in experience through suffering so that we have an experienced Captain that has walked the very road we are on.

Next week we will look at how Jesus became a man to restore our lost unity.