

"Jesus is Superior because of His Humanity"

Hebrews 2:5-18

Part 6

Introduction: Tonight we continue our study in the 2nd chapter of Hebrews and as we do we are looking at the blessings which come to all believers as a result of the Humanity of Jesus Christ.

I. **Jesus became a Man to restore our lost destiny.**

(Hebrews 2:5-10)

II. **Jesus became a Man to restore our lost unity.**

(Hebrews 2:11-13)

III. **Jesus became a Man to set us free from the present bondage.**

(Hebrews 2:14-15)

This now brings us to where we are tonight in our study and also to the last point in this chapter.

IV. **Jesus became a Man to restore us in times of failure.**

(Hebrews 2:16-18)

We will get to this point in a few moments but first I need to refresh your memory. I need to remind you that the writer of Hebrews is writing to Hebrew believers who were going through severe persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ. They had been excluded from the Temple, some had been stoned, some had lost all they had but the point is the pressure was difficult to deal with. Therefore the pressure was causing some of the Hebrew believers to consider going back to Judaism. They desired to go back under the Old Covenant and into the ceremonies and practices of the Old Testament. But the writer of Hebrews has set out to show them that all the ceremonies and the practices of the Old Testament were only types and pictures of Jesus Christ. To go back to the Old Covenant made no sense because Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament. The ceremonies were empty but in Jesus Christ there was satisfaction and fulfillment. So the writer is encouraging them to continue to follow Jesus Christ and not to turn back to the Old Covenant.

Now this section which we are looking at dealing with the Humanity of our Lord is so very important for the Hebrew believers who would have received this letter. The reason it is so important was because the law was given by God through angels to Moses. The angels were very significant in the giving of the Law.

Acts 7:52-53

⁵² *Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:*

⁵³ *Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.*

Galatians 3:19

¹⁹ *Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.*

Now the Hebrews knew that the Law was given by God through the angels to the Nation of Israel. That Truth was at the front of their minds. So the Hebrews held the angels in very high esteem. Now as they became followers of Christ I am sure there were those who were not believers who were quick to remind them that Jesus was a Man. The Law was given by angels but this "New Covenant" was given by a "Man" and not just a Man who lived and died but a Man who died on the cross and the cross was a stumbling block to the Jews.

So the writer has taken them on a small journey so far to show them that Jesus is better than the prophets, He is better than the angels, he pointed them to the Deity of Jesus, and in the section we are in he is showing them why His humanity was so very important. Now all of this is leading up to a climax which the reader is working toward. (Remember now, they desire to go back to the Old Covenant and step back into the existing sacrificial system where they would take their sacrificial offering constantly to the high priest of the temple.) So the writer is leading them to a scenic spiritual overlook where they will be able to see Jesus as the Perfect High Priest.

Notice Hebrews 3:1

This is where we are headed in our study and it will be very exciting as we work our way through the verses. But before we get to chapter 3 we must finish chapter 2.

Notice Hebrews 2:16

This very is absolutely amazing when we look at some word meanings here. At first glance we do not see the message within this verse to the depth that we will when we look at the meaning of some words.

Let us first consider the verse in the light that we see it here. It is very clear from the verse that Jesus did not become an angel so that He was of the family of angels. But He took upon Him the seed of Abraham which means 2 things. First it is a reference to His humanity and second it tells us that He was a Jew.

But the interesting meaning in this verse is seen in the meaning of the word "took". It is used twice and it is beautiful. Here is how Vines Expository Dictionary defines the word "took":

1. *to take in addition, to lay hold of, take possession of, overtake, attain, attain to*
 - a. *to lay hold of or to seize upon anything with the hands, to take hold of, lay hold of*
 - b. **metaph. to rescue one from peril, to help, succour**

The verse means much more than the fact that He "took" upon Him a human body but the idea is that Jesus did not come to help the angels but He came to "take hold of the hand of man" and to walk him through the path which God ordained in this life. When the writer of Hebrews refers to Jesus as the seed of Abraham it does not mean that we as gentiles are excluded. There are 2 ways to see this:

1. **We are the children of Abraham spiritually speaking.**

Galatians 3:7

⁷ *Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.*

Therefore we are included in this statement. But there is another reason why the writer does not reference the gentiles here.

2. **Direct reference to the Gentiles would be out of place in this letter written to the Jewish believers.**

Let us now get back to the thought again. Jesus became a Man and He experienced what we experience as we pass through this world but He was without sin. So He is therefore able to take us by the hand and with us and lead us through the storms and the valleys of this life. Let me show you some verses.

Hebrews 8:6-9

⁶ But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

⁸ For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

⁹ Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

There is a picture of Hebrews 2:16. Let me show you another picture.

Psalm 23:1-6

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Let me pull this all together; no matter what the path we are on our Savior will never leave us. He is there to take us by the hand to lead us through the valleys and the storms. He knows what we are feeling because He was a Man who also walked the face of this earth. He takes us by the hand everyday and He leads us and protects us as we journey through this world. We do not know what the future holds for us in this country but we do know who holds our hand as we continue on toward our eternal home.

Notice Hebrews 2:17

The word "wherefore" in this verse points back over all that has just been said about the Humanity of our Lord. The word "behoved" points to the necessity of Jesus becoming a Man and becoming perfect through suffering. Let me word this so that we can see what the writer is saying here: Based on all that he had just said it was necessary for Jesus to become a Man and experience life on this earth and suffer just as we do (only without sin)

so that he could be our High Priest. Now He did this for 4 reasons which we find here. Now before we look at the 4 reasons let me explain what the duty of the high priest was in the Old Testament. It was his duty to make intercession for the sins of the people. He would kill the sacrifice and place it on the altar. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement the high priest would enter into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat for the sins of the people. Jesus became a Man so that He could become our Sacrifice and our High Priest. Therefore because of His suffering He can now identify with us or in other words He is aware of how difficult life in this sin filled world can be. So He is:

1. **Merciful.**

Jesus is a "merciful" High Priest which means instead of giving us what we deserve due to our sin which is the wrath of God He helps the sinful and He raises the fallen. When we fall into sin and we are broken He does not condemn us but instead He comes and takes us by the hand to raise us back up again and He gives to us a brand new start.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

You see Jesus walked where we are walking and He felt the pressure of this life and the pressure of temptation. Therefore He can sympathize with us when we fall. He is not sitting at the right hand of the Father condemning us but through His Spirit He lifts us out of the spiritual mud and He points us in the right direction.

Let me show you a verse that will help us to see exactly what this means.

John 15:1-2

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

²Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

The phrase "taketh away" does not mean that the believer who does not bear fruit loses his or her salvation. Let me show you the meaning of the phrase from Vines Expository Dictionary.

"to raise up, elevate, lift up"

A branch on a grape vine that does not bear fruit is a branch that has grown down into the mud and has been covered by leaves on the ground. The vine dresser would then come along

and he would lift the branch from the dirt and he would often prop it up so it could get the sun shine and eventually bear fruit.

That is a picture of the believer who falls into the "dirt" of this world. We are not cut off and thrown into the fire but we are carefully lifted from the sin and we are propped up by our merciful High Priest so that we will bear fruit for Him.

2. Faithful.

Not only is Jesus merciful but He is also faithful. What does this mean? This is wonderful when we get our minds wrapped around this. The duty of the high priest was to make intercession for the people. He would go to God on behalf of the people with the sacrifice.

Jesus is faithful to intercede for you and I on a constant basis.

1 Timothy 2:5

⁵ *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus:*

Paul tells us here that there is one "mediator" between God and man and it is Christ Jesus. Here is Vine's definition of "mediator":

"one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant."

Jesus is our Mediator in that He intervenes between us and the Father.

Hebrews 7:22-25

²² *By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.*

²³ *And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:*

²⁴ *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*

²⁵ *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

Jesus is constantly interceding for us. There is another verse that will help us to grasp this.

Revelation 12:10

¹⁰ *And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

Satan accuses us before God when we fall into sin but we have a faithful High Priest Who intercedes for us constantly. This is our eternal security. The only way we could lose our salvation would be for Jesus to cease being a Faithful High Priest.

Next we see He is:

3. The satisfaction for our sins.

Notice Hebrews 2:17 again.

The word "reconciliation" here is the word "propitiation". It means that Jesus satisfied the righteous demands of God on our behalf. God demanded that all sin must be paid for and Jesus Christ went to the cross and He made the full payment for our sins. He became the satisfaction for our sins and His death was accepted as the payment.

Next we see He is:

4. Able to succor us.

Notice Hebrews 2:18

The word "succor" here means "to run to the aid of the one who is in need". The verse therefore tells us that because Jesus suffered through temptation He is now able because of His sympathy for us, to come to our aid when we are tempted. Being God He knows what we face. Being Man He knows from experience what we face.

Conclusion:

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We have an High Priest that is full of compassion toward us.