

My Brother Is My Hero (Part 2)

Hebrews 2:10-18

Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Bethany Baptist Church

July 1, 2018 a.m.

...pray...

If you are a *follower of Jesus* this morning...

You are *thankful* that Jesus is your *Savior*...

You are now *obedient* to God's will because Jesus is your *Lord*...

And you can be *joyful* because Jesus is your *Brother*...

Let's return to Hebrew 2 this morning and read vv.9-18

Jesus, our *Great Brother*, became *lower than the angels* to lead us from death to life!

Our Brother *suffered* for us to *rescue* us!

- 1. Jesus suffered to be our *leader* (v.10).**
- 2. Jesus suffered to be our *brother* (vv.11-13).**
- 3. Jesus suffered to be our *hero* (vv.14-16). ***
- 4. Jesus suffered to be our *priest* (vv.17-18). ***

*- This morning we'll consider **points 3 & 4: our hero our priest!**

Jesus suffered to be our *leader our brother and our hero.*

1. If you've been to the *movies* lately you can't miss that *comic-book heroes* are all the rage! *Superman, Batman, Captain America, Wonder Woman, Wolverine, Black Panther...*even someone (*something*) called *Ant-Man!*
 - a. But the gospel offers you a more *worthy hero* – one who is *like you*, yet **not** *like you* at all!
 - b. Talk about *super powers*: this hero is *man...*and **God!**
 - c. He is a hero is who *real*: the **Lord Jesus Christ.**

2. Jesus took our *flesh & blood.* **Read v.14.**
 - a. If you look carefully around the room, you can probably come up with a lot of ways in which we are all ***different***: *age, gender, complexion, height, weight, & ethnicity.*
 - i. But we are all *alike* in this: *we are made in God's image.*
 - ii. And we are made by God of *flesh & blood.*
 - iii. In fact, v.14 says (Gr) we **κοινωνεω** - *have fellowship w/ one another* by reason of our *common flesh & blood.*

- b. In order to be our *brother* & our *hero* Jesus had to *take on* our *flesh* & *blood*.
 - i. The apostle **John** powerfully captured this in beginning of his gospel: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God & the Word was God...and the Word **became flesh and dwelt (lit. pitched His tent) among us.***
 - ii. The Gr. text underlying v.14 says that *you & I κοιινωνεω - have fellowship by our common flesh & blood.* But then it changes up the vocabulary & says Jesus μετεχω – “*partakes of, shares in*” our *flesh & blood.* This new word for *sharing* or *fellowship* suggests *taking part in something foreign to your nature.* ... As in *Deity* partakes in *humanity.*
 - iii. We call this “*The Doctrine of the Incarnation.*” *God* became *man.*
3. Jesus *took on* our *flesh* & *blood* so He could *die* our *death.*
- a. To *die* in our place, He had to become *like* us.
 - b. Jesus was *born* as we were *born.*
 - c. He experienced *life* as we experience *life.*
 - d. And it was necessary for Him to suffer *death* as we suffer *death.*

4. Through His *suffering* Jesus *disarmed* the Enemy of your *soul*.
- a. Look again at second half of **v.14** w/me: ***in order that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.***
 - b. Here is the *reason* Jesus became man – to *disarm* the *devil* by *destroying* the devil’s most powerful missile – our fear of *death*.
 - i. In **1 Jn 3:8** we read: *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*
 - ii. Turn w/ me to **Rm 5:12**. This is a vital verse for understanding why all men are sinners by *nature* & thus by *action*. **Read.**
 1. According to **Gen 3**, the serpent (aka the devil) introduced *sin* to the first woman & man.
 2. The first man (aka Adam) passed “*fallenness*” (the bent towards sinning) into humanity’s spiritual *gene pool*.
 3. And with *sinfulness* came *death* – to *all* of us.
 - iii. Now follow me to **1 Cor 15:20-22...54-57 (read)**.
 1. Jesus *died* in our place to pay for our sins & was *raised* from the dead to make possible *eternal life*. **V.22** – *all in Christ will live!*
 2. Which means *death* is not a threat because instead of dreading *judgment* the Christ looks forward to *eternal joy!*

5. So our *Hero & Brother* has come among us to free us from Satan's favorite *weapon*: a *weapon* that the Deceiver *wrapped* around us & *chained* to us like some *suicide bomber's vest*: our fear of *judgment ...of eternal death!*

- a. Why do our friends & family *fear death..?* **Kent Hughs** offers this:
- b. We fear the *pain* we associate w/ *dying*,
- c. We fear the *separation* from the familiar & those we love,
- d. We fear the *unknown...(pause)*,
- e. We fear the thought of *ceasing to exist* (but the Bible says that is **not** what happens),
- f. We fear the inevitability of *Divine judgment/condemnation* – the Bible says *that's* what happens next ...
- g. ...*unless* you have *turned* to Jesus & *trusted* that His death & resurrection has *paid* for your sins. Judgment is *averted*.
- h. And you can say: *death, where is your victory...your sting!?!*

6. Beloved, Jesus came & died this for *you!*

- a. *God's Son* never became an *angel* to rescue *fallen angels* (**read v.16**).
- b. But the *Son of Man* became *lower than the angels*; He became *flesh & blood* to rescue the *sons of Abraham* – men & women who share *Abraham's* faith in *God's* promises...

God's promise to send us His Son – our Hero!

Jesus suffered to be our *hero* & our *priest* (read vv.17-18).

1. In the **OT**, the *high priest* entered the *Holy of Holies* to offer the annual “*Day of Atonement*” sacrifice for the sins of the people. The *high priest* offered the sacrifice as *representative* of the people, he was *one of them*.
 - a. The original readers of *The Book of Hebrews* were in churches that came to *Christ* from a *Jewish heritage*, and they understood this image of *priests & propitiation & sin*.
 - b. And this is the first of many references in *Hebrews* to Jesus as our *High Priest*.
 - c. But it’s been *hinted at* from the start. In fact, we’ve made several references to **1:3** – *When [God’s Son] **made purification for sins** He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*.
 - d. That’s what the high priest’s *sacrifice* did – *made purification for sins*. And as our *high priest*, that’s what Jesus did for *you & me!*
 - i. V.17 states that Jesus’ sacrifice *makes **propitiation** for the sins of His people*.
 - ii. *Propitiation* means to *satisfy*. God is *angry* with sin but Jesus’ *propitiatory sacrifice* turns away (*satisfies*) God’s *just wrath*.
 - e. We now see **three** truths about Jesus that make Him the *best* high priest, and the only one to make a once & for all *propitiation for the sins of His people*.
2. *First*, Jesus is our *merciful* high priest. *Mercy* suggests *forgiving* a transgressor whom you have the *power* to *justly punish*.
 - a. Remember (Rm 3) that *the wages of sin is death!*
 - b. Yet instead of acting as *Judge*, seated high above us, Jesus came down among us & became our *priest* ... and our *sin-paying sacrifice!*

3. *Second*, Jesus is a **faithful** priest – faithful to God.

- a. Jesus loves us, but first He loves God! He *took on flesh* out of His *faithfulness* to the *Father*.
- b. King David looked forward to the coming of the *Greater David* and wrote (Psa 40): “Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. ⁸ **I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.**”

4. *Finally*, Jesus is a *helpful high priest*. **Read v.18.**

- a. I am *tempted* all the time! There have been times when I’ve wondered if anyone else is *like me*...!
- b. Then you read this verse, but perhaps you wonder: “Jesus was God, how could **He** be *tempted*?”
- c. Look carefully, it says Jesus was *tempted* in what He *suffered*.
 - i. God’s Son came to be *born* a man, knowing He would *suffer* & *die* a man. That was His *mission*.
 - ii. But He often was *tempted* to abandon His mission!
 - iii. Tempted by the *Deceiver* in the Wilderness after His *baptism*.
 - iv. Tempted when *Peter* protested His forecast about Golgotha.
 - v. Tempted in the *Garden* when He prayed in bloody sweat.
 - vi. He **experienced** *temptation* because He was *merciful*...He **endured** *temptation* because He was *faithful*.

- d. In **v.10**, we considered that the Father *equipped* the Son to do His mission (**read v.10**). Jesus' *very real temptations* were an aspect of being *perfected – completed*, so He could be our *high priest*.
- i. These temptations *completed* Jesus' experience of *humanness* so He can *help us* when we are *tempted*.
 - ii. And notice that the emphasis is not simply on *sympathy*, but on real *help*!
 - 1. **1 Cor 10:13** – *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but w/the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you may be able to endure it.*

Jesus is your **Great Brother & High Priest** whose *strong arm* is around your shoulder & whose *agape love* is whispered in your ear as you face every temptation, every day.

It is *too easy* to let Jesus seem *too remote* or *too abstract*. This text cries out that Jesus is *real* and that He is *near*!

1. When you feel like life has **no purpose** or *direction* then you need to remember that Jesus is the Christian's leader – *pioneer*. His *mission* for you is to *go into all the nations*; His *finish line* for you is at the *Celestial City*.
2. When you are tempted to think you have no value to anyone, I want to remind you that Jesus is *not ashamed to call you His sister or brother*.
3. When you are afraid of *death*, remember that by faith in Jesus' *death & resurrection* you can live forever. And that completely *drains* every drop of fear out of *death*.
4. When you are *tempted*, fly to Jesus – *merciful & faithful & helpful* – for *sympathy & strength*.

...pray...