



Jesus: Loud & Clear; Front & Center (Hebrews)

Why Did Jesus Become a Man

Hebrews 2:10-18

R2R Distinctive: Humility

November 30, 2014

Week 05 of "Jesus: Loud & Clear; Front & Center (Hebrews)"

This guide is designed to provide helpful hints in preparing and leading your Lighthouse discussion. If you need any assistance or further instruction on any part of this teaching lesson, don't hesitate to contact Chris at celler@ffclife.com.

Announcements:

- We are nearing the end of the Fall Semester. Officially, Lighthouses begin their Christmas break on December 21. NOTE: There will not be any Lighthouse curriculum published the week of December 21 and 28. We will begin the Spring Semester on January 4.
- Re:Member 2015 will be held on Wednesday, January 7 at the Ankeny campus. Re:Member 2015 is a fellowship and teaching event intended to review and preview our commitments to Jesus Christ and one another this faith family. As we rehearse the process and product of membership, we hope to raise its value. The elders and deacons strongly urge all members and attenders at both campuses to participate in this inaugural get-together so that the coming year will be one of maximum impact for each of us. It will prove to be a great way to kick-off our Wednesday ministries for 2015! Dinner will be served family-style between 5:30-6:45 pm in the gym, and our programming will begin at 6:45 in the Children's Ministry Wing (birth-2nd grade) and the worship center (3rd grade - adult). Our deacons are hosting the dinner (spaghetti, french bread, salad, and drinks), and the elders are providing the programming aspects. Registration is required, so please let us know who and how many are coming by [clicking here](#). For those with food allergies, feel free to bring your own and join us. There is no cost, and there is no need to bring anything. Simply set the date aside and participate as a member/attender of First Family Church.

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Overview of this Lesson

Purpose: The last half of Hebrews 2 concludes the author's assertion that Jesus is better than the angels. In this week's text, the author notes the reason Jesus became a man—to identify with mankind, to be perfected through suffering, to become the author (founder) of our salvation, to achieve victory over death, and to free us from the bondage to death and sin.

The key to this week's lesson is the focus upon Jesus' identification with man. Moreover, Jesus became a man in order to fully experience the trials and suffering of man so that he could serve as our great high priest.

Review: Son Superior to the Angels

- By Virtue of His Deity (Heb 1:1-4)
- By Virtue of His Humanity (Heb 2:5-9)
- By Virtue of Salvation He provided (Heb 2:10-18)

What is Your Perspective on Suffering?

It was only when I lay there on rotting prison straw that I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good. Gradually, it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes... right through every human heart. . . . So, bless you, prison, for having been in my life.¹

Introduction

- 1. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?**
- 2. Can you describe a time when you were hurting, and someone was able to comfort you. What brought that sense of comfort?**

¹ Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago*, as quoted by Philip Yancey, in *Where Is God When It Hurts* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1977), p. 51.

3. Where do you usually turn for comfort when you are hurting? Why?

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

“The incarnation of Jesus Christ is fundamentally important, for without it, He could not have functioned as our brother, high priest and Savior.”

Read the Text (Hebrews 2:10-18)

Jesus Christ is unique. He is God, greater than all the angels and creation. Yet Christ also became a human being and identified himself with our limitations. He is the one and only God-man. Jesus is able to save us because of his divine perfection. He was willing to save us by submitting to death on the cross and is waiting to save those who respond to him. His suffering not only created a way of salvation for us but also allowed him to identify personally with our struggles as human beings. Christ understands us because he has been human. Therefore, we can trust him not only for our salvation but for our daily needs—whether they are emotional, physical, or spiritual. Read Hebrews 2:10-18.

Hebrews 2:10–18 (ESV)

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the

offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Digging Deeper

In this section, feel free to develop your own questions to help guide your group's discussion. Below are some suggestions.

4. Why did God allow his Son to suffer?

It was through his sufferings that he was really *identified* with men.

Through this identity Jesus Christ *sympathizes* with man. He literally feels with them. It is almost impossible to understand another person's sorrows and suffering unless we have been through them.

Because he sympathizes Jesus can really *help*.

5. What effect did Jesus' victory over death have on Satan?

Refer back to the prophecy in Genesis 3:14–15. Point out that this is what most people consider the first reference to the effect Christ would have on Satan.

6. What can free people from their fear of death?

You might want to explore the fear of death before answering this question. Has anyone known someone who was terrified of dying? (Maybe someone present is.) What is he or she specifically afraid of? Then, when you start to discuss what frees us from that fear, you can relate it back to the specific fears mentioned.

7. Why is Jesus the perfect high priest for us?

A priest in the Old Testament understanding was an intercessor between God and man. The priest offered the sacrifice for the sins of man and was permitted to enter the presence of God, yet he was a man and could understand the failings of his fellow brothers and sisters. It might also help the discussion if you ask how Jesus' pain and temptation are different from our own.

A word about the temptation Jesus experienced: Could Jesus have succumbed to the temptation? Could He have “fallen?” The answer is no. When we speak of being tempted to do something wrong, what we actually mean is that we have the opportunity to do wrong, and we want to do it. Now the opportunity was the testing, but the desire to do wrong was sin, and a sinful desire is itself sin. The Lord Jesus never had that sinful desire.

8. In times of trouble, why do we turn to other people rather than to Jesus?

Four Ways Pain Forces Us to Look to Jesus [Swindoll]

1. The pain of identification. It was Jesus’ suffering that identified Him with humanity.

Because of suffering, Jesus can say, "I understand. I know what you're going through. I know how it feels." But just as suffering identifies Jesus with us, so it identifies us with Him.

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. (Phil. 3: 10)

We have something in common with Christ when we suffer. In the crucible of suffering, a bond is forged—one that draws us closer to Christ than health and wealth and success ever could.

Paul echoes a similar thought in Colossians 1:24.

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

When we look at pain as a friend rather than an enemy, it becomes something we can indeed rejoice in, for two reasons: one, suffering helps us to know we are identified with Christ; and two, it gives us the perspective that we are merely human, groaning and travailing in labor, waiting for that burst of the new heavens and the new earth when pain will be forever behind us (compare Rom. 8:18-25 with Rev. 21:4).

2. The pain of enslavement. The second realm of pain is found in Hebrews 2:14-15.

Think back to the days when we served another master, when we were enslaved to the devil. For many of us, those were terrible days. Days often filled with pain and misery. Days of disobedience and back talk to our parents. Days of rebellion. Days of revenge. Days of running with the wrong crowd. Days of causing havoc and heartache for those around us.

But when Christ came into our lives, things changed. One of those things was that He rendered the devil powerless—something, by the way, which He hasn't done for angels.

For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. (v. 16)

3. The pain of failure. There is a third realm of pain noted in verse 17.

When we sin, we fall on our face morally. And that tumble hurts as well as humiliates. When we fall, what we need is a gracious hand to help us up, not a harsh foot of judgment to kick us while we're down. Because Jesus was "made like His brethren in all things," He can provide that sympathetic hand (4:15). When He died on our behalf, He became a merciful and faithful priest, intimately involved with humanity and interceding on its behalf (7:23-27).

4. The pain of temptation. The final area of suffering in our passage for this week is found in 2:18.

Suffering produces sympathy in us for others.

It is almost impossible to understand another person's sorrows and sufferings unless we have been through them. A person without a trace of nerves has no conception of the tortures of nervousness. A person who is perfectly physically fit has no conception of the weariness of the person who is easily tired or the pain of the person who is never free from pain. A person who learns easily often cannot understand why someone who is slow finds things so difficult. A person who has never sorrowed cannot understand the pain at the heart of the person into whose life grief has come. A person who has never loved can never

understand either the sudden glory or the aching loneliness in the lover's heart.

Before we can have sympathy we must go through the same things as the other person has gone through—and that is precisely what Jesus did.

The sympathetic response of Christ to those who are tempted can be seen in verse 18, in the phrase "to come to the aid." It is from the verb *boetheo*, which is from the two words, *boe*, "a cry," and *theo*, "to run." It means, literally, "to run to the cry."

Whenever we are tempted, all we need to do is cry out for help. Jesus' ears are tuned to the tempted, and He is quick to run to our side.

Concluding Thoughts

In this section, feel free to develop your own questions to help guide your group's discussion. Below are some suggestions.

- 9. How should Christians respond to the pain that comes their way?**
- 10. What can you do to show God's love to someone who is hurting?**
- 11. How might the fact that Jesus suffered help you cope with suffering?**
- 12. What would you like to say to God about your situation, knowing that Jesus understands?**

It is an undeniable fact that usually it is those who have suffered most who are best able to comfort others who are passing through suffering. I know of pastors whose ministries have been enriched by suffering. Through their trials they have learned to "live through" the difficulties of the people in their parish. They are able to empathize as well as sympathize with the afflictions of others because of what they have experienced in their own lives.

Our sufferings may be rough and hard to bear, but they teach us lessons which in turn equip and enable us to help others. Our attitude toward suffering should not be, "Grit your teeth and bear it," hoping it will pass as quickly as possible. Rather, our goal should be to learn all we can from what we are called upon to endure, so that we can fulfill a ministry of comfort—as Jesus did. "Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18, niv). The sufferer becomes the comforter or helper in the service of the Lord.

By the way, by “enduring” suffering, God led me to my wonderful wife,
Ruth, who was His intended one for me.

–Billy Graham
Unto the Hills