

His Humiliation and Suffering for our Sonship and Glory

Hebrews 2:5-13

Sunday, October 25th, 2020

By Ryan Perry

Scripture:

Hebrews 2:5–13

[5] For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

[6] It has been testified somewhere,

*“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?*

*[7] You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,*

[8] putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. [9] But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

[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.”

Let's Pray....

Introduction:

If you didn't know this about me, I was a music and theater kid in high school and eventually went on to study music and perform opera in college. I have been in multiple plays and musicals, performed in 100's of concerts and recitals, and I have starred in quite a few operas.

But despite all this performing experience I continue to have a recurring dream that happens about once every couple of months. I'm starring in some sort of play or musical and I am hurrying to get on stage.

And as I am running on stage I am overcome with dread because I don't know any of my lines. But I go on anyways. And feel this overwhelming sense of fear, anxiety, and humiliation as I just stand there, in front of all these people, not knowing what to say or do.

Now, you might be sitting there trying to psycho analyze me to figure out what that says about me, but I will save you the suspense. The reality is that I have a fear of failure and looking bad in front of other people. **Being humiliated in some ways is my worst nightmare.**

Now let's compare that to Jesus. We have learned from Hebrews 1:3 that, ***“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”***

In short, he is Fully God!

He is the one and only one who sits at the right hand of God the Father and he is far superior to any created being including angels.

And the author of Hebrews, whoever he is, is setting up this argument so that the readers of this letter (**which is more than likely Jewish Christians**) would realize that this Jesus is far greater and more worthy of worship than angels whom he says are ministering spirits of God (1:14).

In response to this argument he urges and warns them in Hebrews 2:1-4, as Steve preached last week, to not neglect this great salvation that they have been given through Jesus Christ, the living God.

Now, at this point his predominantly Jewish audience would have been with him. If Jesus is fully God, then he is greater than angels, and we should worship him and not drift away from the salvation that he has given us. **Got it!**

But then he says something revolutionary. **In order for Jesus to really be our perfect Savior and ruler he also needed to become fully man, and in so doing, suffer and die.**

Boom! The Jews brains explode. In the mind of a 1st century Jew the idea that the One true and living God would leave the glories of heaven were unthinkable. But more than that the idea that he would suffer, and die was abhorrent. Sinners are the ones who suffer and are killed, not God our Messiah King.

Yet this is not only the pathway that Jesus took, but it was his joy to do so. As it says of Jesus in Hebrews 12:2: [2] ***“...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame...”***

In his joy the God the Son, the God of heaven, who is superior to angels, humiliated himself by fully becoming one of his creatures so that he could become the perfect and exalted Savior of his people.

Though this probably sounds all good and right to those of us who call ourselves Christians here this morning there is still be a lingering question that would have been on the minds of Jewish Christians. **It's the question of why.**

Why did it have to happen this way? Why did Jesus have to humiliate himself by becoming a human and why did he have to suffer and die?

This morning I will give you three reasons why Jesus needed to be humiliated in coming to earth and why he needed to suffer and die.

Now before I give you those reason you should know that I am only dealing with the first part of the authors argument. When Pastor Dan is back next Sunday, he will deal with the second half of this argument in verses 14-18 which lays the foundation for Jesus as our High Priest.

But let's begin this morning with looking at the first reason why Jesus needed to come to earth, suffer, and die.

1. Through his humiliation and suffering Jesus became the ruler of all things. (V. 5-9)

How many of you have ever watched the show **Undercover Boss**?

If you have never seen the show it's about High-level corporate execs leaving the comfort of their offices and secretly taking low-level jobs within their companies to find out how things really work and what their employees truly think of them.

These high-profile bosses, who are probably praised and revered by many in the business world, take lowly positions and become just like their employees. **In one sense this is exactly what Jesus did when he came to earth.**

But instead of coming to earth to see what his creatures think of him he ultimately came to become what they were originally supposed to be, but because of sin, never could be. The perfect rulers of all creation.

Look with me at Hebrews 2:6-8 which says:

[6] It has been testified somewhere,

*“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?*

[7] You made him for a little while lower than the angels;

*you have crowned him with glory and honor,
[8] putting everything in subjection under his feet.”*

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

You see Hebrews 2:6 through the first part of verse 8, with a few exceptions, is an almost exact word for word translation of **Psalm 8:4-6** from Hebrew to Greek.

Now in the original Psalm David is in awe at the reality that God would make humans, care for them, that he would give them glory and honor on earth, and even give them authority to rule this planet.

He is in essence echoing the reality of what God said in Genesis 1:26 which says:

[26] “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

But there’s a problem with these verses isn’t there?

Being crowned with glory and honor are royal terms to describe a king taking his place on a throne. And this Psalm along with the Genesis account envisions a version of man that has complete and total authority over everything.

Do we as humans really have royal authority over everything? No. God originally setup his creation for that to be true, but because of sin, we have fallen so short of that original design. We were supposed to be rulers of God’s creation who ruled it in a way that perfectly reflected who he was and is as God.

Yet despite falling short of God’s original design he still had David pen these words. And they were penned in one sense to make us wonder at the reality that God should care for his special creation. **But more than that they were penned so that we would long for a day where we saw the reality of David’s words come true.**

And writer of Hebrews is letting us know that it has come true in the person and work of Jesus Christ. As he writes in Hebrews 1:8-9:

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. [9] But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Jesus, the one who is the exact imprint of God's nature, he who is God himself, stepped out of heaven and humiliated himself by being sent to earth in human form. **This God of all creation was made for a little while lower than angels.**

And not only was he humiliated by becoming lower than angels, but to top it all off he suffered and died on the cross like a common criminal. **But it wasn't for nothing.**

Instead, it was God's plan that Jesus, who was fully God and fully man, would live as a human and be killed as a human so that he would defeat sin and death.

As a result, he was and is gloriously resurrected as the perfect God/man who is now what God originally created man (**Adam**) to be, the perfect king, ruler of all things who has total control over all creation.

His kingdom has come to earth, **and though we don't see it yet**, we live with the knowledge that one day, because of his death, the whole of creation will be free of sin and everything and every person will be in submission to him. **Our God wins.**

In this way it was totally necessary for our God and king to suffer and die so that he could become the perfect ruler that man was supposed to be, but could never be.

2. Through his humiliation and suffering Jesus became our perfect Savior. (V. 10)

Hebrews 2:10:

[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.

In the 1998 WWII movie Saving Private Ryan, a man by the name of Captain John H. Miller (played by Tom Hanks) is given the task of leading a small group of soldiers to bring home a man by the name of James Ryan (played by Matt Damon) because he was the last surviving son in his family.

Now, at the end of the movie Captain Miller and his troops save James Ryan, but in the process the Captain is shot and eventually dies. He gave his life to save the life of Private Ryan. He in one sense was Ryan's physical savior. **And this movie scene is so moving that it would be very easy for us to take this picture and apply it to what Jesus has done for us.**

But here's where it's different. There is something that Captain Miller says to Private Ryan as he is dying. He draws him close and says, **"earn this."** Meaning that **Private Ryan needed to somehow live in a way that made him deserving of that sacrifice.** And when you watch the movie you might even feel like he somehow should earn it.

Yet, our God and Savior would never say that to us. In fact, he says the exact opposite, **"you can't earn it."**

Because of the sin of Adam in the beginning, death came into the world and it has infected all of us. Therefore, we are enslaved to sin, dead spiritually, and unless we find someone to rescue us, we are all destined for eternal punishment in hell. **Meaning that it is impossible for us to please God and do what is right in his eyes.**

That was the whole point of the sacrificial system in Israel. It showed them and us our sin and our need for a substitute to pay the penalty for our wrongdoing so that we can be made right with God. **It shows us that we need help.**

But it also shows us something else. The sacrificial system shows us that no earthly creature can perfectly make that sacrifice for us. In fact, Israel had to offer these sacrifices over and over again.

This why David's description of man in Psalm 8 is so far outside of our reach.

There is nothing we can do nor is there anything in all of creation that can help us to become what God intended us to be.

So, if all of this is true then where does our help come from?

The author of Hebrews gives us our answer in 2:10 when he says that **"it was fitting"** or right that he (**being God the Father, the one for whom and by whom all things exist**), made the founder or pioneer of our Salvation (**Jesus Christ**) perfect through suffering.

Now when he says that Jesus became perfect through suffering this doesn't mean that he was somehow imperfect morally or that he was lacking something. **If that were true, he wouldn't be God and he would not be able to be our Savior.**

Instead the author is making the point that Jesus, when he stepped out of heaven and became a human, had to live as a human. Which meant that as he grew up he needed to learn how to depend on and follow God the Father as a human.

And he had to do this because he needed to live a perfect life of obedience so that he could eventually suffer and die on the cross as our perfect substitute for sin.

And it is through his perfect life of obedience and his suffering and death that Jesus became our perfect Savior. **He was the one and only one who was able to fully complete the plans of God to redeem and save a people for himself.**

The author of Hebrews also says it this way in Hebrews 5:8-9:

[8] Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. [9] And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

So, through his perfect life of obedience, humiliation, suffering, and death, Jesus became our perfect substitute and our only source of salvation. **He is our perfect Savior.**

3. Through the humiliation and suffering of Christ we have received sonship and glory. (V. 11-13)

Have you ever heard the phrase “**Cool by association?**” It literally means that you gain a higher social status through associating with or being around a more popular person. Meaning, you become popular by hanging around with people that are popular. **You didn’t earn the status you just get it.**

With Jesus we have something similar going on, but it is more than merely being “cool by association.” Jesus, the God/Man who lived a perfect life as a human and died on the cross for our sin does more than just make us his friends or give us a new social status. **He literally makes us sons and daughters of the living God.**

As it says in the first part of Hebrews 2:11:

[11a] For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Jesus, the one who sanctifies, or sets people apart as holy to God, and those who are sanctified and set apart as holy by God, all have one thing in common. They both find their origin in God himself.

As a result, we who are set apart as holy are now adopted into the family of God. We have been given a new family and a new identity as God the Father calls us his children and Jesus, as his only begotten Son, calls us brothers and sisters.

Do you get how amazing that is?

Imagine how cool it would be to say, “Hey, I’m Aaron Rogers brother or I’m Aaron Rogers sister.” You would freak out.

But our heavenly brother is way cooler and is more powerful than Aaron Rogers. We are literally brothers and sisters of the living God, Jesus Christ.

And just to be sure his Jewish readers get it the author of Hebrews brings in some Old Testament passages to confirm this reality. He says in verses 11b-13

[11b] 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.”

The first reference is in verse 12 is from Psalm 22 which is considered a Psalm that foreshadows the death and triumph of Christ. The author of Hebrews takes the Psalmist words and applies them to Christ to show that he calls us brothers and sisters and sings praises to God with us.

The second in verse 13 is from Isa. 8:17 which shows us that even Jesus, our Messiah, puts his trust in God just like God’s children do, **which means that he makes himself equal with us.**

We are brothers and sisters who are on equal footing with God the Son and we are now sons and daughters of God the Father. And if that isn’t cool enough because we are brothers and sister and sons and daughters of God we have become heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

As Paul writes in Romans 8:16-17:

[16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Which means that everything that the writer of Hebrews has applied to Christ in this passage now also applies to us as his people.

We like Jesus are a little lower than angels, but like him we will be crowned with glory and honor and one day we will rule with him forever when he returns. We will be sons and daughters who are brought into glory as it says in verse 10.

In fact, Paul talks about this glory that we will receive and says at this moment God is preparing it for us. As he writes in 2 Corinthians 4:17:

[17] For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison...

This is the glory of an eternal rest which is talked about in Hebrews 4. It is the glory of gaining entrance into the heavenly Jerusalem and into God’s presence as it says in Hebrews 12, and it is the glory of Psalm 8:4-6 now being fulfilled and applied to us through Christ.

Man, this is exciting stuff. This is what our God and Savior has done for us.

Jesus, for the joy that was set before him, was humiliated and died so that he could be ruler of all things and our perfect Savior. So that we would get to be his brothers and sisters who will receive honor and glory and will rule with him as God's children forever and ever.

And though we are reminded in verse 8 that we don't physically see everything under the authority and rule of Christ yet, I pray that we all will leave this place in awe of the great salvation that we have been given. That we will all live with a greater hope in and excitement for the glory and eternity that is to come.

And that we would live everyday as if this world is not our home. Because we are part of a new family. We are brothers and sister, and sons and daughters of the living God. **He is our God and Savior, and we are his forever covenant people.**

Let's Pray