

HEBREWS

“NO TURNING BACK”

Lesson 3

Ice Breaker: Have you ever tried to befriend someone who was certain you could never really understand them? If so, what was that experience like? What did you do to try to prove to them you could relate to them?

INTRO: The Hebrew writer explains that Jesus literally put Himself in our shoes so He could relate to us, and ultimately BE related to us!

READ: Hebrews 2:5-18

*5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 7 **You made him a little lower than the angels;** you crowned him with glory and honor 8 and put everything under his feet.” In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. 9 **But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels,** now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God **he might taste death for everyone.***

*10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should **make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.** 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. **So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.** 12 **He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.”** 13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”*

*14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— **15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.** 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. **18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.***

Q: According to this passage, what lengths did Jesus go to in order to be able to identify with us? (vs. 5-9)

- In vs. 6-8, the writer quotes David from Ps. 8:5-6, where David said God created man to be lower in rank than angels.
- In verse 9 the writer says Jesus was also made lower than the angels.
 - In Phil 2: 6 we are told Jesus didn’t think equality with God was something to be grasped.

- Nowhere in scripture does it say that Jesus ever regained His equality with God.
- The Greek word for little in verse 7 can mean “little while”.
 - While God made man lower than angels while here on earth, man wasn’t intended to always be lower than angels.
 - 1John 3:2 “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what **we will be** has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”
 - 1Cor. 6:3 “Do you not know that **we will judge angels?**”
 - He became one of us when we were at our worst, not at our best.
 - Sometimes we think Jesus pulls away when we are at our weakest and worst, but He left heaven to be with us and be one of us exactly at that moment.
 - What ever you are struggling with, whatever you think makes you dirty and weak... it won’t last!
 - Vs. 10 says Jesus is bringing us to glory.

Q: Verse 9 says Jesus tasted death for *everyone*. Why is this so important?

- If Jesus tasted death for everyone, then there is no one who can’t be saved!
 - Some people believe that God predestined some people to be saved and some to be lost.
 - If God chooses before hand who is saved and who is lost, then how do you know if He really chose you?
 - 1John 5:13 says we can KNOW we are saved.
 - The doctrine of predestination is usually associated with Calvinism and maintains that God selected some to be saved and some to be damned.

Q: Verse 10 says Jesus was made perfect through suffering. How did suffering make Jesus perfect for the job of being our savior?

- Heb. 2:18 “**Because he himself suffered** when he was tempted, **he is able to help those who are being tempted.**”
- He really gets you! He knows what trips you up, why, and how to get you past it.
- As your high priest, He represents you to God with compassion and understanding, not judgment and anger.

Q: What do verse 11 and 12 tell you about how Jesus feels about you?

- He isn’t ashamed of you!
- He is proud to call you a part of His family.

Q: How can the fear of death make a person a slave? (vs. 15)

APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.

1. How does knowing what Jesus went through to be able to identify with you make you feel?
2. What does it mean to you to know Jesus is not ashamed to call you his brother?
3. Are you afraid of death? Why or why not?