



Sermon-Based Study Guide  
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Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church - May 29, 2011

Sermon Title: Messiah's Brothers and Sisters

Sermon Text: Hebrews 2.10-18

Related Texts: Psalm 22.1-24; Leviticus 16.1-34

I. Start It – Connecting With One Another

If you have siblings, how closely do you relate to them? What have you learned from or how have you been encouraged by your siblings?

II. Introduction

So far we have seen the author of Hebrews emphasize Jesus' uniqueness – he is the radiance of God's glory, the exact representation of the Father, co-equal with God, the creator of all, and exalted over all. In the passage that precedes the one we are looking at in this study, he has cited that Jesus, though he has been exalted above creation, entered into humanity (a little lower than the angels), lowered himself to us, rescued us through his life on the cross, and raised us up to reign with him. In doing so, the author continues, Jesus has identified with human beings, has become the one who leads them to the fullness of God's kingdom, and has served as the great high priest between God and humankind.

III. Study the Text – Read Hebrews 2.10-18

- 1) As you look at verse 10 what do you see as the central point the author is making about Jesus' role in "bringing many sons to glory?" What do you think it means that Jesus was made perfect through suffering? How has Jesus' suffering qualified him to carry out God's mission of redeeming fallen, broken human beings?

Note: "Bringing many sons to glory" speaks of God's desire to lift human beings out of the grip of sin and death. The word translated here as "sons" needs to be taken to mean "children" or "heirs" or can even be translated as "ones who share a special relationship with another." As such, the author is asserting that Jesus is the "author" or "originator" or "the means" of salvation and has brought many into a new relationship with God, and in this case it is as children of God and as siblings of Jesus.

- 2) As you look at verse 11, how would you define the word that is translated here as "holy"? What does it mean to be made holy by Jesus?

Note: The Greek word, "hagios" is most often translated as "holy." It also conveys the idea of "being set apart as sacred to God," "consecrated," or "morally pure."

- 3) What is significant to you about the idea of Jesus making you "holy" or "sacred to God" and then unashamedly calling you brother or sister?
- 4) The author reinforces the idea of Jesus identifying those who trust in him as "brothers and sisters" by referencing Psalm 22.22 and Psalm 68.26 in verse 12 and 13(a) and Isaiah 8.17-18 in verse 13(b). Take a few moments to read Psalm 22.1-24 to understand what Jesus had to do

in order to make us “brothers and sisters.” What does this suggest about Jesus’ suffering and about your worth to God?

- 5) Verses 14 and 15 describe the effects of Jesus’ incarnation (taking on human flesh) and his death on the cross. How do these things set Jesus apart from all other religious figures? What does it mean to you to know Jesus has destroyed (this can also be translated “rendered ineffective” or “nullified”) the one who holds the power of death? How do you experience freedom from the fear of death?

Note: In this verse we find the Greek word for devil which is “diabolon” from which in English we get “diabolical.” The Devil represents the force that continues to oppose God and entices human beings to do the same, leading to sin and to spiritual death. Through Jesus the power of sin is rendered ineffective – human beings can be free from its grip. That is truly good news.

- 6) Verse 16 is interesting in that it seems to be abrupt – almost as if the author suddenly thought about a significant point – “it’s not about the angels but you, the descendants of Abraham!” How does this fulfill the promise made in Genesis 12.1-3?
- 7) The author introduces another major theme of this book in verse 17 – Jesus is a merciful and faithful high priest. Look at Leviticus 16.1-34 to see the role of the high priest. How has Jesus served in that role? How did Jesus provide for atonement?

Note: The “Day of Atonement” described in Leviticus 16 is in mind in these verses. The author argues that Jesus – as high priest – has gone beyond the role of a mere human high priest and has become the actual means (sacrifice and scapegoat) of: 1) forgiveness for human beings, and 2) turning away the wrath of God so that we might be made “at one” with God.

- 7) Verse 18 introduces another theme we will see later – Jesus having been tempted. How did Jesus “suffer when he was tempted?” How does his experience make him able to help you when you are tempted?

#### IV. Apply It – Reflect and Respond

- 1) This is a loaded passage, filled with references to the significance of Jesus becoming flesh and blood and of his sacrificial death on the cross. Reflect on these things and take some time to respond to God in prayers of gratitude.
- 2) If nothing else is taken from this passage it should be that you and I are of infinite worth to God who has gone to such lengths to make atonement possible and to destroy the power of sin and death. As you ponder these truths, reflect on your worth to God.
- 3) What do you need from Jesus today? His mercy as high priest, that is, his forgiveness? His help in temptation? The assurance that you are “at one” with God? Why not ask Jesus for the help you need... he is present and hears your prayers.