

I. Lesson: Jesus and his Authority Pt. 2 (Heb 2:5-13)

A. Humanity lower than the angels but heirs of the world (2:5-8)

1. The Hebrews discusses the intention of God for humans to further explore Christological principles. He focuses on a pivotal text, Ps 8:4-6. This passage makes the following claims about human beings within God's creation.
 - a. Humans are made lower than the angels.
 - b. But humans are crowned, that is, humans are honorable in the sight of God.
 - c. Humans will share in the rule of the world to come. At the end of this present order, when God renews all of creation, human beings will rule the world under God's power.
2. The Hebrews writer clarifies that not all things were placed under the feet of humanity in general. There is a specific human who is qualified to have all things under his feet.

B. Jesus: lower than the angels but above all? (2:9-13)

1. The Hebrews writer spent the last chapter exploring the supremacy of Jesus Christ over the angels. But, yet, how could Jesus be supreme over the angels and yet human, lower than the angels? Many throughout the centuries have struggled with this proposition. What does it mean for God to become human? Can God be God and human at the same time? What does his status mean for his ontology as God? What does his status do with his humanity?
2. We know Jesus has become human because Jesus suffered. Human suffering is a key part of what it means to be human in this age (see Gen 3). And even Jesus suffered death. He became a mortal in every sense of the word.
3. But his suffering was substitutionary. V. 10 states that Jesus was "made perfect through sufferings." Not that Jesus needed help to be perfect but this is a another way of speaking of Jesus's resurrection from the dead. His suffering and death were for us so that he may "taste death" for all people.
4. The ultimate goal was reconciliation so that we may join the family of God. Jesus becomes the binding agent, human who brings all humans into family fellowship with God. Jesus calls us brothers and sisters and we call God, Father (v. 11-13). This was the goal of God from the beginning. Human beings through our sinfulness, in creating a non-reality, have to be restored to God. God is reality, everything outside of God is not. It took the suffering of Jesus to make this possible. He suffered and took on the punishment of our sinfulness to undo the power of sinfulness and suffering itself.