

I. Lesson: Jesus and his Authority Pt. 3 (Heb 2:14-18)

A. Jesus shared in our flesh and blood (2:14a-b)

1. The writer notes that the divine Jesus took on humanity as an Israelite. “The children” is a reference to the people of Israel for whom the Messiah came to rescue. He had flesh and blood just like them.
 - a. Having flesh in the case of Jesus does not mean that he was fleshly. Being made of flesh does not mean that you are necessarily subject to the corruption of being in the flesh.
 - b. But Jesus was definitely mortal in the sense that he could die. If you punched him, he would hurt. If you cut him, he would bleed.
2. Jesus did this in order to fellowship with us to restore our fellowship with God. Such fellowship had been broken through sin and death.

B. Jesus’s coming in the flesh broke the power of the devil over us (2:14c)

1. The writer makes a startling statement, the one who had the “power” of death was the devil. Satan had authority over human beings to kill and destroy prior to the coming of Jesus.
2. This was possible because human beings no longer submitted themselves to the living God. Thus, they were subsumed under other authorities. Though God remained in control of all creation, God allowed the devil to kill and destroy for God’s own purposes. We surrendered our rights to the devil.

C. Salvation is being set humanity free from death itself (2:15-16)

1. When Jesus cited Isaiah 61, he claimed to set the captives free. His meaning was to its fullest extent. He was talking about the hindrances on freedom that we see. But he was speaking of the very causes of those hindrances. The reason is because sin leads to death. We are no longer in bondage to death.
2. This is why the text states that this was not for the angels. Angels are not subject to death but the seed of Abraham is.

D. Jesus saves as our faithful High Priest (2:17-18)

1. Jesus was like “his family” in all things. He shared in a common humanity. As Aaron and his descendants, they who were charged with the priesthood, he was able to be a high priest for the nation of Israel and, indeed, the world.
2. Jesus, the “merciful and faithful high priest,” understands our failings because he lived with flesh and blood. Thus, he was able to offer our sacrifice on our behalf with empathy.
3. He suffered being tempted so that he could help those who are also tempted.
4. Jesus was pressed to death itself. But because of his faithfulness to God, he overcame. His overcoming enables us to overcome as well.