

Hebrews

Lesson 2

Chapter 2:5-3:6

Leader Guide

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Lesson 2
Hebrews 2:5-3:6
The Humility of Christ

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. Hebrews 2:9

Prayers

Introduction

In chapter 1, the writer of Hebrews asked his readers to dwell on the glory of God's One and Only Son, His honored Son, the Son whom all His Promises were through: ^{Heb 1:2} but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

In chapter 2, Hebrews reflects on Christ's humility as a man so that we could be made holy and be called his brother (or sister).

Read Hebrews 2:5-18

^{Heb 2:5} 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." (Psalm 8:4-6)

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.

^{Heb 2:11} 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." (Psalm 22:22)

¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." (Isaiah 8:17)

And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." (Isaiah 8:18)

Heb 2:14 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.

Heb 2:17 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.

1. Psalm 8 speaks of Christ’s humble state as a human man. Read Psalm 8:1-9

Ps 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Ps 8:2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

a. How would you answer the Psalmist’s question- what is man that God is mindful of him?

We are loved by God (Jn 3:16), made in His image (Genesis1:27), and fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps 139:14). God has given us stewardship over the earth (Genesis 1:28)

1. What does man have dominion over?

God has given us dominion over the earth as his stewards – over the earth and all the living things.

2. Verses 5- 8 Compare man’s dominion to Christ’s. How has God exalted his Son?

God crowned his Son with glory and honor; everything is made subject to him

3. What does the writer mean in verse 9 by “we do not see everything subject to him”?

a. How does this truth challenge both non-believers and Christians alike?

Suffering, war, and disease are often seen as evidence to unbelievers that a loving God does not exist. Our faith is sometimes challenged when we are impacted by evil or suffering.

b. What are some truths you remember when you find yourself challenged by the things that are “not subject to him”?

I remember that God is not the author of evil but of good. We should not blame God for the evil of men.

God will give me the strength to persevere and ultimately shows me the way out of hardship or suffering.

I will find significance and worth in God's eyes and in my life, whatever the loss.

4. In verse 10, both angels and Jesus minister to humanity by bringing God's word and delivering his people from oppression (e.g., the angel of the Lord went before Israel in the Exodus and battle). How was Jesus's ministry different than the angels?

Angels saved men from situations – their deliverance was temporary. Jesus' salvation and redemption for humanity were perfect, one sacrifice for all sin, for all time.

5. In verses 10-13, God exalted Jesus for his action. What were some of Jesus's actions?
- a. Verse 10, he brought many sons _____. **(to glory)**
 - b. Verse 11, he makes men _____. **(holy)**
 - c. Verse 11b, he calls us his _____. **(brothers)**
 - d. Verse 12, He _____ the name of God **(reveals God)** to us
 - e. Verse 13, He puts his _____ in God **(trust)**
6. The scripture quoted in verses 12-13 can be viewed from two perspectives; God's perspective toward his Son and our perspective toward Jesus. What are our actions toward the Son?
- a. Verse 12 **We praise him and tell others**
 - b. Verse 13 **We trust him as Lord of our life**
7. Verse 12 says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." What are some of the daily activities that you declare your praise for Jesus to others?
8. Why did Jesus need to be human?
- a. Verse 14a **to share in the humanity of his children**
 - b. Verse 14b **To destroy the power of death**

- c. Verse 15 **To free us from the fear of death**
- d. Verse 17a **To be like us in every way so that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest**
- e. Verse 17b **To make atonement for our sin**
- f. Verse 18 **To suffer and be tempted so that he is able to help us when we are tempted.**

9. In which aspects of Jesus's humanity do you find the greatest comfort (besides all of them)?

Read Hebrews 3:1-6

Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. ² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.

Heb 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

Heb 3:5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future.

Heb 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Therefore, fix your eyes and thoughts on Jesus. To fix your thoughts comes from the Greek verb "katanoesate" meaning "to give thoughtful and diligent reflection" and as the saying goes, when you read "therefore," look at what it is there for. In this case, the writer gave 12 reasons in verses 2:7-18 why the Hebrews (and us) should fix their thoughts on Jesus, the apostle (one who is sent), and high priest. What are some of the reasons?

Heb 2:7 You made him a little ⁹ lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor

Heb 2:8 and put everything under his feet." ^{10 u}

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.

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor ^v because he suffered death, ^w so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ^x

Heb 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, ^y should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ^z

Heb 2:11 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.

Heb 2:12 He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

Heb 2:13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

Heb 2:14 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 -

Heb 2:15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Heb 2:16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

Heb 2:17 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.

Heb 2:18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

What 12 reasons did the writer cite for why we should fix our eyes on Jesus:

1. Verses 2:7-8 **God crowned his Son with glory and honor; everything is made subject to him**
2. Verse 2:10 **he brought many sons to glory (he saved us and redeemed us to God)**
3. Verse 2:11 **he makes men holy [set apart for God's purpose, through his own righteousness]**
4. Verse 2:11b **He calls us his brothers [by giving up his glory with the Father]**
5. Verse 2:11b **He brings us into God's family**
6. Verse 12 **He declares the name of God (reveals God) to us**
7. Verse 13 **He puts his in God (trust)**
8. Verse 14b **Jesus destroyed the power of death**
9. Verse 15 **He freed us from the fear of death**
10. Verse 17a **To be like us in every way so that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest**
11. Verse 17b **He made atonement for our sin**
12. Verse 18 **He is able to help us when we are tempted.**

10. What is "God's house" the writer refers to relating to Moses and Christ?

Verse 6 we are God's house; it is the body of God's people, first Israel, then all believers in Christ.

11. Moses was a faithful prophet of God and entrusted him with the entire house. Yet, why did the writer say Jesus was worthy of greater honor? Review the following chart on the ministry of Moses and Jesus and fill in the blanks.

Moses	Jesus
<p>led God's people out of bondage from Egypt</p> <p>administered the law</p> <p>was a man who sinned</p> <p>died and was buried</p> <p>made repeated sacrifices for sin</p> <p>is honored as God's servant</p>	<p>led God's people out of bondage from _____ (sin)</p> <p>_____ the law (fulfilled or was)</p> <p>was a man who _____ sinned (never)</p> <p>died and was buried but _____ (rose again)</p> <p>made _____ remission for sin (one perfect)</p> <p>is honored as God's _____ (Son)</p>

Closing Prayer