

Readings

Scripture

⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶ It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?" ⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- Hebrews 2:5-18 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

Heroism is not an illusion produced by human cultures that leaves us in disillusionment or perpetual adolescence. Rather, it is a pointer to the glory and honor that actually exists in the character [of] the Creator.

- Dick Keyes, *True Heroism in a World of Celebrity Counterfeits* (p. 95)

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

- Genesis 50:15-21 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Stand on My Shoulders

Hebrews 2:5-18

Consider Jesus

Brad Anderson

We stand on the shoulders of our great older brother. His mission is not only to save us by his sacrifice, but also to restore in us the beauty of our original design through sharing in our humanity and humiliation... (Hebrews 2:11)

What has our great older brother restored in us?

He has heroically restored our dignity as sons and daughters... (Hebrews 2:5-9)

- By sharing in our humanity
 - By sharing in our humiliation
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He has heroically restored our glory as sons and daughters... (Hebrews 2:10-16)

- By sharing in our humanity (Hebrews 2:12-13)
 - By sharing in our humiliation (Hebrews 2:14-15)
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He has heroically restored our relationship as sons and daughters...

(Hebrews 2:17-18)

- By sharing in our humanity (Hebrews 2:17)
 - By sharing in our humiliation (Hebrews 2:18)
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Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- In what class in school was it hardest to pay attention?
- What does it mean when it says in Hebrews 2:8 that, "At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him."
- What can you learn from Hebrews 2:5-18 about the way in which Jesus became a merciful and faithful high priest, serving God on our behalf? What role did suffering play?
- Why did we need someone with flesh and blood like us – not an angel – to die in our place (Hebrews 2:14-18)?
- Are you or someone you know tyrannized by the fear of death? How do verses 14-15 address this fear? Are you aware that Jesus has broken the ability of the devil to enslave you through the fear of death?
- Of the three titles for Jesus (brother, author/founder/champion of salvation, high priest), which one means the most to you now? Why?
- God's fixed intention is to lead many sons and daughters to glory. Have you ever been gripped by the depth of God's love and caring for you, which prompted this intention?