

## Week 5: FORMED Series

### *Belonging to God's Family*

#### **Hebrews 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> *In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> He says,*

*"I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the assembly I will sing your praises."*

<sup>13</sup> *And again,*

*"I will put my trust in him."  
And again he says,*

*"Here am I, and the children God has given me."*

<sup>14</sup> *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human 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. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

#### **Comments on the Text**

*"WE COME NOW to the final section on the position of the Son relative to the angels (1:5-2:18). In 1:5-14 the preacher covered the Son's superiority to the angels, followed immediately by an exhortation to heed the Superior One's word of salvation (2:1-4). In 2:5-9, he made a transition by focusing on Psalm 8:4-6 with the title, "The Superior Son for a Time Became Positionally Lower Than the Angels." Having made the transition, the writer now brings his discussion fully "down to earth," addressing the Incarnation in a section titled "The Son Lower Than the Angels (i.e., among human beings) to Suffer for the 'Sons.'" Here he presents the Incarnation as prerequisite for the Son's identification with and suffering for humanity. Hebrews 2:10-18 may be divided into an introduction (v. 10), the Son's solidarity with humanity (vv. 11-13), presentation of the reason for the Incarnation (vv. 14-16), and a conclusion (vv. 17-18)."<sup>1</sup>*

*"In 2:17-18, the author summarizes the case that he has made in 2:1-16 and introduces the argument that he will develop in the rest of the homily. In the comment that he had to be made like his brothers in every respect (2:17a), he summarizes the focus on the solidarity of the Son with the community. In 2:18, as in 2:8b, he indicates the*

---

<sup>1</sup> George Guthrie, *Hebrews* (Zondervan Academic, 2009), pg 107.

*situation that is driving the argument. The Son's solidarity with the people is solidarity in temptation. The author affirms that although the community is now being tested (2:18) by its inability to see God's triumph (2:8b), its suffering (2:18), and its weariness, it does not stand alone. Jesus is not only the exalted Son; he is also the pioneer (2:10), whose path to glory involved suffering and the same temptations now faced by the community. He became high priest only after being tested. The emphasis is not only on the high priesthood of Christ but on his significance as the answer to the crisis facing the people. In declaring that he is merciful and faithful (2:17b), the author introduces the subjects that follow. He will describe the faithfulness of the Son in 3:1–6 and challenge the community to respond with faithfulness in 3:7–4:13. He will elaborate on the theme of the merciful high priest in 4:14–5:10 before developing the theme of the exalted high priest in 7:1–10:18. Thus he responds to the community that is being tested (cf. 3:7–4:11) by affirming that the exalted Son and high priest has also faced the same test and consequently is able to help (2:18)."<sup>2</sup>*

### **This week's sermon:**

Rod unpacked the text, sharing 3 encouraging truths with us:

- Jesus is our brother and we belong to God's family.
- He knows and understands our suffering and temptations.
- And because He suffered, He can help us when we suffer and when we are tempted.

### **Reflection Questions:**

- Where in my life am I still trying to earn what Jesus has already freely given me?
- How do my thoughts, feelings and actions sabotage my belonging to God's Family?
- What would change if I truly believed that Jesus is not ashamed of me?
- What might it look like this week to live as a deeply loved child of God?
- And for those exploring faith: About that the belonging you've been searching for, could it be found in Jesus?

### **Prayer:**

Father, thank you that you have made us part of your family, not because we earned it, but because Jesus, our brother, made it possible.

Jesus, you know what it is to suffer. You know what it is to be tempted. So we bring you our weariness, our struggles, and our fears and we know that you understand them and can help.

Holy Spirit help us to live this week as deeply loved children of God, not striving, but resting in the belonging that Jesus has secured for us. Amen.

---

<sup>2</sup> James Thompson et al., *Hebrews, Paideia: Commentaries on the New Testament* (Baker Academic, 2008), pg 77.

## Formation Practice

We want to encourage you to do this simple exercise every day for the next 2 months. It can take 5 minutes or an hour, whatever you are able to achieve (and as you do it more and more, you'll likely find it easier to spend longer listening and reflecting).

### *Simple Daily Rhythm*

1. Listen: Read a short passage from Hebrews
  - Free yourself from distractions (internal and external). You may find it helpful to play a worship song to focus your mind
  - Read slowly. Read the passage a few times.
  - [Lectio Divina](#) a one helpful method of reading and sitting with a passage.
2. Reflect: What is Jesus saying to me?
  - Pray and ask Jesus to speak to you. Sit in the quiet and listen. Is he asking you to do anything?
3. Respond: What will I do today?
  - Resolve to intentionally do something with what you have been given. There may be a practical step of obedience to take. Or you may be able to encourage someone else with what you have been given.