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THE ULTIMATE HUMAN BEING

Hebrews 2:5-13

I. What Was God's Plan for Human Beings? To be Greater than the Angels (v.5-8a)

- A. We May Seem Small and Insignificant (v.6)
 - o Author quotes Psalm 8:4-6: "What is man that you are mindful of him..."
 - o What makes it seem like humans don't matter very much in the universe?
- B. But God Made Us for a Special Purpose (v.7-8)
 - o Humans are made to reflect God's Glory: "You have crowned him with glory and honor" (v.7)
 - Echoes Gen 1:26 where humans (not angels!) are made in the image of God (Gen 1:26)
 - o Humans are made to rule God's World: "putting everything in subjection under his feet" (v.8)
 - Echoes Gen 1:26 where humans (not angels!) are given dominion over world (Gen 1:26)
 - Someday humans will even judge angels (1 Cor 6:3)
- C. Implications
 - o Each human being has tremendous value and potential
 - o How might this affect the way you do ministry?

II. What Happened to Human Beings? Their Rebellion Led to a Broken World (v.8b)

- A. The first human being, Adam, did not fulfill God's purpose for him
 - o Adam rebelled and followed an angel! God's intended order was reversed.
 - o This rebellion brought death/suffering into the world
- B. As a result, "we do not yet see everything in subjection to him [man]" (v.8b)
 - o Man is now a poor ruler of the world.
 - o Man is now a poor reflection of the glory of God



III. How Can Human Beings be Restored? Jesus, the Perfect Human, Represents Us (v.9-13)

- A. God became a human being in Jesus
 - o Jesus, like all humans, was “made lower than the angels” for a time (v.9)
 - o As such, Jesus became the “founder” (v.10) of our salvation—he pioneered a way for us
- B. As a human, Jesus can be our representative—what’s true of him is true of us!
 - o Jesus was Holy: “perfect though suffering” (v.10-13)
 - If Jesus was holy, then we are regarded as holy—his righteousness is credited to us by faith
 - Jesus is also the model for growth in holiness—it often comes through suffering
 - Jesus suffers along with his people and thus calls them “brothers” (v.11)
 - Do you see your suffering as a path to holiness?
 - *Side note: How can Jesus be “made perfect” through suffering if he’s already perfect?*
 - o Jesus Paid Penalty of Death: “tasted death for everyone” (v.9b)
 - Since Jesus was perfect, he didn’t die because of his own sins. He died for the sins of his people.
 - Put simply, when Jesus died we died. Thus our penalty has been paid!
 - o Jesus was Glorified: “crowned with glory and honor” (v.9)
 - If we are joined to Jesus by faith, then we will share in this glory and honor
 - Through Jesus, our proper glory/honor as humans will be restored



Discussion Groups

1. How does the reminder of the value of human being help reshape your goals of your life and ministry?

2. In what ways have you seen God use suffering to shape you and bring you more in conformity to himself?

3. Do you look forward to your glorification? How would it change your life if you did?

