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)
      - Author quotes Psalm 8:4-6: “What is man that you are mindful of him…”
      - 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)
      - 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)
      - 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
      - Each human being has tremendous value and potential
      - 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
      - Adam rebelled and followed an angel! God’s intended order was reversed.
      - 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)
      - Man is now a poor ruler of the world.
      - 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?

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

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

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