



OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 2:14-18

Do You Really Want to Represent Yourself?

I. An Effective High Priest has to Be a Real Human

- A. Jesus was a real flesh and blood human
 - o “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things” (v.14)
 - o This verse affirms the “incarnation”—the idea that God took on flesh and became a human being
 - o Hebrews refutes two competing heresies in early Christianity:
 - *Docetism*: Jesus was really God but not really human
 - *Arianism*: Jesus was really human, but not really God
 - Hebrews (and the rest of the Bible) affirms he is both!
- B. Therefore, as a human, Jesus could represent us
 - o “For surely it is not the angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham” (v.16)
 - o By being human, Jesus can take on the role of the high priest and represent the people before God
- C. Why does it matter that Jesus represents us? It allows him to die in our place
 - o His death destroys Satan who has the power of death: “that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery” (v.14b-15)
 - *Jesus’ death ends a duel with Satan since the dawn of time (Gen 3:15)*
 - *To defeat death, Jesus has to deal with the cause of death, namely sin*
 - *How does the “fear of death” enslave us? If Christ has freed us, how can we live differently?*



- o His death satisfies the wrath of God: “to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (v.17b)
 - “propitiation” (ἱλάσκεσθαι) means to satisfy God’s wrath over our sin
 - If Jesus has soaked up all of God’s wrath, then there is none left that can fall upon us!

II. An Effective High Priest has to Experience the Life of a Real Human

A. Jesus Experienced What We Experience

- o Jesus was more than *physically* human: “He had to be made like his brothers in every respect” (v.17a)
- o If Jesus has soaked up all of God’s wrath, then there is none left that can fall upon us
 - Jesus “suffered” (v.18)
 - Jesus was “tempted” (v.18)
- o Don’t forget that Jesus has walked your path before you did!

B. Why Does This Matter?

- o Jesus suffers “so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest” (v.17)
 - How does suffering make us more merciful to others?
- o Jesus is tempted so that “he is able to help those who are being tempted” (v.18)



Discussion Groups

1. How does the “fear of death” affect your life? In what ways does the truth of this passage allow you to live a more daring life for Christ?

2. What are some struggles you are facing today, and how does Jesus’ own experience of those same sort of struggles help encourage you?

3. How are you doing in showing sympathy and compassion to others? How does this passage help you?

