

ONE OF US

(Hebrews 2:5-18)

DAY ONE READING AND QUESTIONS:

⁵It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?

⁷You made him a little lower than the angels;
you crowned him with glory and honor

⁸and put everything under his feet.”

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

- 1. Who is the “him” in this passage, human beings or Jesus? Could it be both? How?*
- 2. How can everything be subject to him, yet we do not see everything subject to him at present? Does Jesus rule our world or not?*
- 3. Verse seven can be translated, “you made him for a little while lower than the angels...” How does this change the meaning of the passage?*

DAY TWO READING AND QUESTIONS:

⁹But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers;
in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.”¹³And again,
“I will put my trust in him.” And again he says,
“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

1. *Why is Jesus now crowned with glory and honor? What is the connection between suffering and glory?*
2. *How is Jesus made perfect? Was he not perfect from all eternity? What does perfecting mean here?*
3. *What two things does Jesus call us here? How does that make you feel?*

DAY THREE READING AND QUESTIONS:

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

1. *Did Jesus have flesh and blood just like we do? If so, what did he feel? What challenges did he face?*
2. *Do you fear death? Why? Is it normal to fear death? Did Jesus fear death?*
3. *How did Jesus overcome the power of death?*

DAY FOUR READING AND QUESTIONS:

¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like his brothers 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. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

1. *Is Jesus like us in every way? Is that hard to believe? Why?*
2. *This is the first time the idea of high priest occurs in Hebrews. What is a high priest? What does he do? How is Jesus our high priest?*
3. *Why does temptation make us suffer? Did Jesus suffer more or less from temptation than we do? Why?*

DAY FIVE READING AND QUESTIONS:

Go back and read the entire passage.

1. *Do we often call Jesus our brother? Why or why not?*
2. *Could Jesus have sinned when he was tempted? What would have happened if he had? How real were his temptations? Why is it important to us that they were real?*
3. *What are the ways Jesus helps us in this passage?*

MEDITATION ON HEBREWS 2:5-18

Jesus is the very image of God.

I can believe that.

Jesus is greater than the angels.

Of course, that's true.

Jesus is human like me. He calls me his brother. He's not ashamed to be like me.

I find that hard to believe.

My guess is that I am not alone. While some may find it hard to buy the divinity of Jesus, that he is fully God, many Christians I know do not truly believe he was just like us. Oh yes, he had a body. Yes he was hungry and thirsty. But just like me? Tempted to be selfish, petty, grouchy, and egotistical? Tired? Bored? Sexual? Did he really experience all it means to be human?

Yes. He had to be like his brothers and sisters in every way. *Every* way.

But Jesus did not sin. So he could not be human like us. "To err is human" (which is not a Bible verse).

No, he did not sin, but he could have. To say otherwise would be to deny this passage and the temptation stories in the Gospels. If Jesus could not sin, then he was not truly tempted. But he was tempted, part of him wanted to do the wrong thing because the wrong thing

looked so good (isn't that what we mean by temptation?). But it is not wrong to be tempted. It's merely human. Temptation is not sin.

Jesus suffered in temptation, suffered more than we do. How? Well, at times when I am tempted, I do not suffer long because I give in! Jesus never gave in. He faced the full struggle with temptation. Because he did, he can help us when we are tempted.

How great is Jesus? Son of God. Creator. Lord of the angels. How great is Jesus? So great that he became one of us to be our High Priest, to forgive our sins, and to be our brother.

He is so great that he is not ashamed of us.

"Brother Jesus, may we feel your loving presence with us this day, particularly in time of trial. As you are not ashamed of us, may we never be ashamed of you."