

THE HUMILITATION AND GLORY OF JESUS

CMBC March 20, 2016 Palm Sunday

Hebrews 2:5 - 18

- The world has little patience with losers.
- You never see a businessman, who had just gone bankrupt, be the guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce convention.
- A team that has just lost 12 straight games doesn't sell out a stadium.
- You never see a church that has just shut their doors written up in a church growth magazine.
- We all want to identify with a winner.
- People that are down and out must have something wrong with them.
- The crowds cheered the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey.
 - But a few days later, when the spiritual leaders took him to trial, they changed their minds.
 - There must be something wrong with this Jesus.
 - And they joined in shouting, "Crucify him!"
- **1 Corinthians 1:22** Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, [23] but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, [24] but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- The crowds, that day, clearly saw the humiliation of Christ, but missed out on understanding Christ's purpose, His true greatness, His true glory.
- Hebrews chapter 2 looks at that dilemma:
 - **Hebrews 1** began: In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets **but** in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
 - Can the humiliation and suffering of Christ really be God's final revelation to man?
 - Can he be the Christ, the Messiah?
 - Can he be God?
 - Even angels don't suffer.

1. THE STEP DOWN FROM DIVINE TO HUMAN

Here is what they missed.

Hebrews 2:9 But 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.

- a. Mankind is a lower form of creation than the angels
 - i. Angels are stronger
 - ii. More awesome
 - iii. Hebrews quotes **Psalms 8** What is man that you should be mindful of them,
NLT What are mere mortals that you should think about them.
- b. There must be something important for God to communicate with these mortals, with mankind

- i. Why should God care? If He does, that is incredible.
 - ii. He has a lot of other creature, like angles
 - iii. Maybe we should pay attention to why God cares
- c. The Son came to die for mankind
 - i. **Vs 9** says: **he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.**
 - ii. He came to take man's greatest humiliation
 - iii. **ILL.** Andy Anderson with Armed Forces Search and Rescue said, "I never want anybody to see me dead like that."
 - iv. Death isn't pretty.
 - 1. It is our humiliation.
 - 2. Our sign of failure – our sinfulness

2. JESUS HAD THE AUTHORITY TO DIE FOR MANKIND

But what qualifies Jesus to die in our place.

- a. All creation flows from God and to God
 - i. **Colossians 1:16** **For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.**
 - ii. **Romans 11:36** **For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. Then Paul adds: All glory to him forever! Amen.**
 - iii. The whole created order is the expression of the will of God. Therefore, the incarnation and death was within the design and purpose of God.
 - iv. And so are we!
- b. Suffering filled the obligations of a Saviour

Vs 10 **In 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. [11] Both 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.**

 - i. The one who can save mankind from their greatest humiliation is made perfect thru suffering.
 - ii. To fulfill the obligation of a saviour, to make us holy, he had to become a man
 - 1. A humiliation
 - 2. But he is not embarrassed to become a man, to take this humiliation
 - 3. He is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters
 - 4. **Vs 17** **Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. [18] Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.**

5. This act becomes a greater glory than anything else that Jesus, God the Son could do, as we read in Romans 11:36

3. THE OUTCOME IS ETERNAL GLORY

- a. All that was needed to redeem mankind was done
 - i. **Vs 11** So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.
 - ii. Without suffering there is no saviour
 - iii. And all that was necessary to deliver us and make us His brothers and sisters was completed in Christ Jesus
 - iv. So we are called sons and daughters of glory
- b. What He has done crowns Him with glory
 - i. **Vs 9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour;
 - ii. This is what the first Palm Sunday crowd missed when later they saw Jesus as a loser
 - iii. The road to Calvary was the road to glory

4. WE SEE ONLY A GLIMPSE OF HIS GLORY

- a. We still are a limited creation
 - i. We only see a part of that glory
 - ii. We knew we were in a desperate situation with our sin, but had no idea of how bad.
 - iii. God knew, and what He did shows us the glory of our God
- b. One day we will see and share in His glory
 - i. We will have the privilege of sharing in that glory
 - ii. A glory the angels could never have

Let me apply this to you and where you are at.

- Your point of humility in Christ, your suffering, your weakness, is your point of glory and honour in Christ
- You often only see the loser part of your life
 - The set backs
 - The disappointment
 - The failed dreams
- God identifies with all this struggling
 - That is why Jesus came
- God allows your weaknesses as a human being.
- Why should you be different than the Son, your Saviour?
- There is glory in your humiliation and suffering
 - It fits in with God's plan
 - Accept His great love for you