JESUS: THE MAN

**DATE: 9/11/2013 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 2:14-18**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Quote:** J. I. Packer said, *“God became man; the divine Son became a Jew; The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. And there was no illusion or deception in this: the babyhood of the Son of God was a reality. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in life is so fantastic as is this truth of the Incarnation.”*

When we speak of the Incarnation we are speaking of the great truth that Jesus became man

Throughout **Hebrews 2** we have been reminded of this

- In **Hebrews 2:6** the question is asked – ***“What is man…that thou visitest him?”***

The word ***“visit”*** speaks of when Jesus came to earth and became man

**- Hebrews 2:9** says - ***“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death”***

Again, the writer is reminding us that Jesus became man

Now in **vs. 14-18**, the writer talks about the Purpose behind Jesus becoming man

What it Means; to both Jesus and Us

So, why did Jesus become man?

What did it mean *For* Jesus, and *To* Jesus, to become man?

What does it mean For you and I, that He became man?

Let’s look at **vs. 14-18** and see if we can’t answer these questions

Let’s pray and simply think on this thought –

***“Jesus…The Man”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, notice with me -

**I. WHAT HE “ASSUMED” AS MAN – v.14**

**v.14** reads - ***“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same”***

We see here Jesus Assuming the nature of man

He did not become someone that was Similar to man

Nor did He merely Appear to be man

He actually became man

Yet He never stopped being God

He became the God-man, wholly God, yet wholly man

And as a man He Assumed our human nature

As we look closer we see – (2 things)

**A. A Nature ‘Common to Man’**

**v.14a** states ***“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood…”***

The word ***“children”*** is sometimes used …

- To speak of an Infant

- At other times in reference to Immature Christians

- In this case it is used in reference to the Human Race

- No Doubt, Man is the Unique Creation of God

First, let’s look at what makes us Unique

**1.** Our Differences

- Our Looks are different

Our facial features

Some have brown Eyes, other blue or green

Some have brown Hair, some black, some blonde, some red, and some have no hair

Nose sizes (I won’t even go there)

There are all kinds of ways to classified people

Our Looks are different

- Our Personalities are different

Some are bashful and shy, others are outgoing and uninhibited

Some are quiet, some don’t know the meaning of being quiet

Some are fun to be around, others are boring

Some are thoughtful and kind, while others are self-centered and proud

Our Looks are different, Our Personalities are different

- Our Backgrounds are different

Some grew up in loving homes while others never knew the meaning of a home

Some grew up in the city, while others grew up in the country

Some had everything they wanted, while others were fortunate to have anything

Some were made to work, while others never had to lift a finger

Some grew up in the North and some were less fortunate and grew up in the South!

Some were reared in Church and some rarely attended

Some had parents that were strict and set certain rules in the home

While others were allowed to do whatever they wanted to do

Man certainly is a Unique Creation

But we all have something in Common

We all are …

**2.** ***“partakers of flesh and blood”***

The word ***“partakers”*** speaks *of something in common*

Something all members of the human race share with one another

The word speaks of fellowship, communion, or partnership

**Quote:** I once heard someone say that *fellowship is two fellows in the same ship*

When it comes to ***“flesh and blood”***we are all in the same ship

We are all partners

Flesh and blood is something that each of us share and have in common

There are things that are different about each of us

But there is one thing we all share

And that is *flesh and blood*

Did you know that blood transfusion is universal

No matter what culture or ethnic heritage

We are all ***“partakers of flesh and blood”***

**A Nature ‘Common to Man’**

The writer also speaks of -

**B. A Nature ‘Chosen by God’**

**v.14b - *“…He also Himself likewise took part of the same…”***

**v. 14a** not only speaks of what we all share

But adds, Jesus took upon Himself the same nature

The word ***“took”*** is a word that speaks of *taking hold of something that is not naturally one’s own kind*

**1.** He Became One of us

We by nature are flesh and blood

Jesus was not by nature flesh and blood

His was a Divine nature

Ours is an Earthly nature

His, an Eternal nature

Our is Finite

He was God, we’re man

He is Divine, we are human

Yet ***“…He also Himself likewise took part of the same…”***

He Chose a nature of flesh and blood

He Chose to become a man for man

**2.** He Became One of us, For Us!

When He ***“took”*** upon Himself our human nature

He did it with a Purpose in mind

- He Willingly Assumed the nature that we all share

- He Willingly Chose to add to Himself that which He did not possess

- It was a Deliberate act whereby God became man

**3.** The Reason

**v.14c – *“that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”***

I hope you can get excited about this

Because if you can’t …

Then you are Taking you Salvation Lightly!

The words ***“that through death”*** indicate the reason He took upon Himself our human nature

He became a man that He might die as a man

He became a man that He might die a Substitutionary Death,

Meaning that He died in our place

Ill. In Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, there is the grave of a Civil War soldier. The stone bears his birth and death dates, and then these words: *"Abraham Lincoln's substitute."* In the awfulness of war, realizing that thousands upon thousands were falling in his place on the battle field, Lincoln chose to honor one particular soldier as his substitute and make him a symbol, as it were, of the fact that the soldiers who perished in battle, were dying that others might live free.

The Lord Jesus ***“likewise took part of the same”***

… That He might die in the place of others

**THAT’S WHAT HE “ASSUMED” AS MAN**

**II. WHAT HE “ACCOMPLISHED” AS MAN – vs. 14, 15**

As a Man, what did He do?

What was Accomplished by His taking on flesh and blood?

The writer of Hebrews connects His death to Our death

The word ***“death”*** is used 3 times in **vs. 14 & 15**

By taking on, our human nature, He was Dealing with …

**A. The ‘Domination’ of Death – v.14c**

By using the word Domination, I’m referring to the *controlling power* of someone or something

In **v. 14c** the writer speaks of ***“the power of death”***

The word ***“power”*** speaks of strength, dominion or control

***“The power of death”*** speaks of how each of us is Dominated by the reality of death

We are always under this dark cloud

The Bible tells us that death is the result of sin

In **Romans 6:23** says - ***“For the wages of sin is death”***

Sin is the cause of death in 3 forms

When death passed upon all men through Adam and Eve

It brought Physical, Spiritual, and Eternal Death

**1.** First, sin is the cause of Physical Death

Each of us has an appointment with the grave

We will die one day (Unless the rapture comes first)

The Bible says in **Hebrews 9:27** that ***“it is appointed unto men once to die”***

**2.** Secondly, sin is the cause of Spiritual Death

Spiritual death is a separation from God

Men are sinners; therefore they are separated from a Holy God

The Bible says in **Ephesians 2:5** that before we were saved ***“we were dead in trespasses and sins”***

In **Genesis 2:16, 17 – *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:” “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”***

When God said ***“thou shalt surely die”***

He was saying *“in dying you shall die”*

Was God being Redundant?

Being dead in sin is to be spiritually dead; separated from God

**3.** Thirdly**, t**he ultimate result of sin is Eternal Death

Eternal death is an eternal separation from God

The Bible tells us in **I Thessalonians 1:10** that we have been ***“delivered from the wrath to come”***

That wrath is expressed in an eternity lost without God, in the Lake of Fire

This is the second death

Jesus said in **Matthew 10:28 – *“…fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”***

**Revelation 20:14 – *“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death”***

That’s Eternal Death

**4.** The Reality

The writer of Hebrews tells us that it’s a power that Satan possesses over the human race

**v. 14c2 - *“that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil”***

In what Sense does Satan have the Power of Death?

- The final authority of death is in the hands of God

**Deuteronomy 32:39 – *“See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand”***

- And Satan can do only that which is permitted by God

But because Satan is the author of sin

**John 8:44 – *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do…***

***…He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it”***

It was his lie in the Garden that caused man to sin

And sin brings death (**Rom. 6:23**)

In this sense Satan exercises power in the realm of death

We just saw in **John 8:44** that Jesus called him a murderer

Satan uses the fear of death as a weapon to gain control over the lives of people

(We’ll talk more of this in a minute)

His kingdom is one of darkness and death

**Acts 26:18 – *“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God …”***

**5.** The Remedy

However, as a man, and through His death on the cross,

Jesus broke the Power of Death and Satan’s Domination over us

Again we read that …

**v. 14c1 - *“through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil”***

The word ***“destroy”*** means *to render inoperative*

Obviously, Satan has not been completely destroyed or totally put out of business

He is still at work Deceiving & Enslaving men

The evidence is all around us

When Jesus died, He Conquered Death through His resurrection from the dead,

Thereby Conquering the Power and Domination that death held over the human race

That’s why Paul could rejoice in …

**I Corinthians 15:55 -** ***“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”***

The Power of Death, as Satan’s means of controlling man has been rendered inoperative

He no longer has Power over us, for in Christ Jesus we are given eternal life

**I John 3:8 – *“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil”***

Furthermore, the writer speaks of -

**B. The ‘Dread’ of Death – v.15**

***“And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”***

**1. v. 15** here speaks of the ***“fear of death”***

There is no doubt nothing more terrifying to the human mind than Dying

The king of terrors is Death

The fact of Death is a relentless reality

The more our minds struggle to escape it, the more it comes to mind

The more we fear it, the more dreadful it becomes

**2.** The writer of Hebrews tells us that the human race

***“were all their lifetime subject to bondage,”***

Or in other words, the fear of Death enslaves us

Even those who boast they have no Fear of Death

There are countless testimony of those who changed their minds when death was eminent

**3.** 5 Reasons why Death is Feared

- The Fear of Pain and Suffering

There is the Fear of the pain and suffering that accompanies death

- The Fear of Separation from what we know and from the ones we love

- The Fear of the Unknown

- The Fear of Not-being

- The Fear of the possibility of everlasting Punishment

The Good news is that we are Delivered

Look at the first part of **v.15a** – ***“And deliver them”***

Jesus as a man and dying for man …

Has destroyed the **Domination of Death** and Delivered us from the **Dread of Death**

**WHAT HE “ASSUMED” AS MAN**

**WHAT HE “ACCOMPLISHED” AS MAN**

Thirdly, we not only see what Jesus Assumed and what He Accomplished,

But also -

**III. WHAT HE “ACQUIRED” AS MAN –vs.16-18**

Becoming man, Jesus not only Assumed a nature that was Foreign to His own …

But He also Acquired a New Role in regards to His people

The role He Acquired is that of a ***“high priest”***

Look at the middle of **v.17 …**

***“that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God,…”***

As a man, He entered into a relationship with man …

This enables Him to relate to us in a unique way as our High Priest

**v.17** continues by saying ***“… to make reconciliation for the sins of the people”***

He acts, not only our Saviour, but also as one who represents us to the Father

He not only Redeemed us, but He also Represents us

As our High Priest we see that He is -

**A. A ‘Sympathizing’ High Priest**

We read in **v. 16** - ***“For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham”***

The writer once again reminds us that the nature He chose to assume was not that of angels, but that of man

He was not coming to redeem angels; He was coming to redeem man

Therefore, He took upon himself the form of man

**1.** Specifically

He took upon Himself the form of Abraham’s descendants and became a Jew

In other words, He became a part of the human race through the Jewish people

**v. 17a** says - ***“Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren”***

The word ***“behoved”*** speaks of something that must be done

He not only came that He might Die

But also that He might be able to relate to man in all things as our High Priest

**2.** Notice Carefully

The writer says that ***“in all things”*** He was ***“made like unto His brethren”***

As I said earlier, Jesus did not merely come in the appearance of man, He actually became man

Jesus, the Son of God remained positionally God,

Yet at the same time was absolutely human in Body, Mind, and Emotion

He actually became a baby and was in *all ways* a baby

As an infant He developed as a baby, grew from infancy, through childhood, adolescence, young adulthood and into maturity

We read in **Luke 2:40 -** ***“And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was with Him”***

He grew physically, intellectually, and spiritually

There was never a moment that He did not retain the qualities of omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence;

But yet He was entirely man as well as God

As a man, He experienced human emotions, anger, joy, and sorrow

The full range of human emotions we experience, He experienced

We find in the Word of God that …

He was hungry, He was thirsty, He became tired, He slept, He ate, He was grieved, He was troubled, He cried

He was like us in every way

He felt everything we have felt and will ever feel

He was even tempted to do wrong as we are tempted to do wrong

**Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 4**

**3.** Having experienced all the experience of humanity

He therefore can Sympathize with us in all things

He is not a High Priest that is detached from us, indifferent to what we go through

But because He became man …

He knows where we hurt, knows where we are weak, and how we are tempted

Therefore, He is a Merciful and Faithful High Priest

As our High Priest, we not only see Him as Our

**‘Sympathizing’ High Priest**,

But also as -

**B. A ‘Succoring’ High Priest**

We read in **v. 18** - ***“For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted”***

The word ***“succour”*** is an old English word that means *to help or come to one’s aid or assistance*

- He helps us because He knows what we are going through

- He helps us because He fully understands our experiences

- He helps us because He has gone through what we go through

**Quote:** It has been said, *“Comfort drops coldly from the lips that have never uttered a sign or a groan.”*

Which means *it’s hard to sympathize with what we have not experienced*

Paul said in **II Corinthians 1:3, 4 –**

***“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;” “Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God”***

Paul was saying that God lets us experience certain trials and tribulations in our life that we may minister to others who are going through such trials

In other words, if we have gone through certain things,

We can Sympathize with others who are going through the same

Because He has been there, He will help us!

He became man, therefore He knows all about man!

In **Hebrews 2:14-18** we see **Jesus … The Man**

**WHAT HE “ASSUMED”**

**WHAT HE “ACCOMPLISHED”**

**WHAT HE “ACQUIRED”**