

I. Welcome

A. Good morning! Ohayogozaimasu! Welcome to Calvary Chapel Iwakuni.

1. *Welcome any new faces and those streaming online.*

B. (1st Service) Before we dismiss the kids we're going to pray for the Byrd family as this is going to be their last Sunday with us before flying back to the States next week.

1. Cannon and Alexis have been a God-send for us and the ministry here at Calvary. When we found out that Pastor Nick was not going to be coming back to Iwakuni, we were in need of someone to come and help fill some of the gap that was left by Pastor Nick.

2. Cannon and Alexis answered that call and willingly put their lives back in the States on pause to come serve the body here for the last 12 months. We're grateful for their sacrifice and their service to the Lord and to this body.

3. They will be missed, but we trust God has great things in store for them in their new season back in the States.

4. I want to invite the Byrd family, as well as our church leadership to come up front here, along with anyone else who feels led to simply lay hands on our brother and his family as we commit them to the Lord.

5. (Pray for new season in Florida)

6. As you all make your way back to your seats, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children to their classrooms as well.

C. (2nd Service) Before we dismiss the kids to their Sunday School classes, we have the wonderful privilege of doing a baby dedication this morning.

1. If you've been with us for a while you may have seen us do one of these before. We do them upon request as the Lord leads.

2. And this morning we are actually going to be dedicating both the Bagley girls to the Lord; Korra and Esther. Korra is just over two years old and Esther is just over two months old. Both of them were born here in Iwakuni and we've been so blessed to be part of their life.

3. A baby dedication really is a dedication made by the parents, not the children. The parents, in this case Keagan and Alexis, are making a public dedication before the Lord and this church to raise up these beautiful girls in the ways of the Lord; to teach them all about the Lord, His Word, and His plan of salvation for their lives.

4. The hope is that these girls will one day confess their sins before the Lord and make a profession of faith in Christ that will lead them the rest of their days and that God would use them mightily to impact His kingdom.

5. Keagan and Alexis are committing to do their best, with the help of God's grace and God's Holy Spirit to give both Korra and Esther every opportunity possible to respond to the glorious gospel of Christ.

6. And that is what they are committing to and making a dedication towards this morning. So, we're going to pray for both Korra and Esther, along with Keagan and Alexis; that God would bless them in their commitment to raise these girls in the ways of the Lord and that God would have His hand upon the entire family. (Pray)

7. As the Bagley family makes their way back to their seats, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children AND our Bible English group to their respective classrooms.

D. As they make their way out, will the rest of you please make your way to the book of Hebrews chapter 2?

1. The last two Sundays we have paused in our study through the book of Hebrews and some of the church elders were able to share a few special messages.

2. My family and I were away in Chiang Mai, Thailand for the CC Asia Conference. The Conference was a huge blessing and I was thoroughly blessed and encouraged while away.

3. I was also blessed to be able to listen in and hear what the Lord had to say through our brothers Jacob and Kevin. I'm grateful to have these men as support in the ministry here at Calvary and I hope their messages were something the Lord used to speak to you and encourage you in your faith.

4. This morning, we're going to get back to our verse by verse study through the book of Hebrews. Last time we were in Hebrews we looked at the first four verses of chapter 2 and covered the first of five different warnings that are scattered throughout the book of Hebrews.

5. As we pick up our study we will come back to the subject matter that was being discussed in chapter 1. If you recall, in chapter 1, the author of the book of Hebrews was giving examples of how Jesus is superior to the angels, and in chapter 2, it seems as if the author addresses a potential objection to his claim based upon Jesus' humanity.

6. Human beings, as we'll see were created a little lower than the angels. Both humans and angels are created beings, angels however are spiritual beings that will never taste physical death. They can take on physical forms, but those are mere temporary manifestations; they aren't bound by physical bodies.

7. Humans on their other hand are limited upon this earth to our physical bodies. When we come to faith in Christ we are born again; experiencing a spiritual birth that will last throughout all of eternity, but those bodies for the most of us, will one day experience physical death.

8. Because humans are made a little lower than angels, some could try to suggest that since Jesus was a man, that He is less than the angels. In our text this morning the author lays out why Jesus needed to become human and why even though He took on the flesh as a man, He did not become less than or inferior to the angels.

9. This was all part of God's perfect will and plan for His creation.

- E. So, our text this morning is going to be Hebrews chapter 2 verses 5-18, and the title of our message is going to be “**The Humanity of Jesus: Why Jesus Christ had to Become a Man**”.
1. I'd like to ask you all to rise to your feet in honor of God and His Holy Word. I'm going to read through our text picking up in Hebrews chapter 2, verse 5 and making my way all the way to the end of the chapter in verse 18. Follow along in your Bible as I read from mine.
 2. The author of Hebrews continues laying out why Jesus is greater than the angels starting with verse 5... (R & P)

II. Outline

- A. Our text this morning is a little wordy and has a lot of descriptive language in it. But the main point the author is discussing is Jesus' incarnation; the Christian doctrine that describes how God became flesh, took upon Himself a human nature, and dwelt among humanity as one of us.
- B. Now, as we've noted through our study of the book thus far, Hebrews is all about the superiority and supremacy of Jesus Christ; how Jesus is greater than anything and everything. And in chapter 1, the main subject the author discussed was how Jesus was greater than the angels.
- C. The author continues to support his case, by bringing up the humanity of Jesus. Now, some may see that as a negative thing to bring up. Some look at angels and think they are better than humans, stronger than humans, are without as many limitations as humans, but the author makes a strong case to show how Jesus continues to be superior to the angels even though He took upon Himself a human nature and became a man.
- D. As we'll see, this was all part of God's great redemption plan for humanity. A plan that He set in motion from the very beginning of time. Jesus *had to* become a man in order to fulfill God's will and God's plan.
- E. In our text, we're going to note 7 reasons why Jesus had to become a man and how He fulfilled the Father's will and plans from the very beginning.
- F. We'll start off with taking a look at verses 5-9 where we'll see how Jesus had to become a man **in order to restore man's lost dominion**.

III. Hebrews 2:5-9; In order to restore man's lost dominion.

- A. In our opening verse, verse 5, the author speaks about the world to come and how God had not given it over to angels to rule over.
 1. In chapter 1 the author highlighted how the angels are simply ministering spirits. They ministered to Christ when he was on the earth and they even minister to us who are here on earth, and all who will inherit salvation. (**Hebrews 1:14**)
 2. And they will continue to act as ministering spirits not only in this world, but also in the world to come.
- B. Well, if God hasn't put the world to come in subjection to the angels, who has He given it to? The answer to that may surprise you. The answer is that He has given it to man.

- C. In verses 6 through the first part of verse 8, the author proceeds to quote from the OT book of Psalms to speak about how God has given all things under the feet of man and how God has set man over the works of His hands.

1. This is a direct quote from Psalm 8 verses 4-6, but in order to understand the context, I think it is important to read the first part of the Psalm as well. Turn there with me if you will.
 - a. Psalm 8 opens up with “O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set your glory above the heavens!” (**Ps. 8:1**)
 - b. Verse 3 continues “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For you have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen—even the beasts of the field, The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!” (**Ps. 8:3-9**)
 - c. David, the sweet psalmist, was no doubt out in the wilderness, perhaps tending to his father's sheep as he often did. And as he gazed up and the night sky and he saw all the bright stars in the sky and the moon shining brightly, he was overwhelmed with the majesty of God and His creation and then somewhat dumbfounded when he asked, “What is man that you are mindful of him?”
 - d. David was feeling just how small he really was in the grand scheme of things. Have you ever done that before? Have you ever gotten away from the city lights, out into the wilderness and camped under a big bright sky filled with glowing stars you can't even begin to count or fathom the enormity of them all? It has a way of making you feel very, very small and insignificant.
 - i. If you haven't ever done something like that, we're getting into the perfect season for it here as fall approaches. Get out and go camping or stargazing and allow yourself to be in awe of God's creation and His handiwork.
 - e. This is how David was feeling, looking up at the stars and the moon in the heavens. He was simply in awe of God; overwhelmed at His creation and the vastness of it all.
 - f. But then he considered his own place within the vast universe and how incredible it was that God had chosen to give dominion over the earth and all of His handiwork to mankind.
2. Back to Hebrews. By quoting this Psalm, the author takes us all the way back to the very beginning, when God first created the earth and gave dominion over it to Adam back in Genesis.

- a. In Genesis 1 we read, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" (**Gen. 1:26-28**)
 - b. God gave man dominion over all of His creation. He instructed him to subdue it, to exercise authority over it. He put the entire world in subjection under the feet of Adam and through Adam all of humanity.
- D. But there's a problem. At the end of verse 8 the author of Hebrews states "But now we do not yet see all things put under him."
1. As we look around this world, it is easy to see that man has not fulfilled his responsibility. The animals don't obey man, God's creation is not under control of man. Why is that? Well, it's because of sin.
 2. God's desire was that man, His crowning achievement, (*of all that God created, it was only man that was made in the image of God*) God's desire was that man exercise authority over His creation, but man surrendered that authority the moment he allowed sin to enter into the world.
 3. Satan came in the form of a serpent and deceived Adam and Eve into partaking of the forbidden fruit and in doing so, sin entered the world and man relinquished their claim over the earth to the devil.
 4. Everything changed when sin and death entered into God's creation. Man forfeited their claim over the earth to Satan.
 - a. The earth we see today is not ruled over by man, but by Satan. Why do we see so much pain and suffering, death and disease, sadness and madness in our world today? Because of sin. Because Satan is ruling over the world in this present age.
 - b. Paul refers to the devil as "the god of this age". (**2 Co. 4:4**)
 - c. When the time came for Jesus to be glorified, for Him to be lifted up upon the cross, Jesus said, "'Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.' This He said, signifying by what death he would die." (**Jn. 12:31-33**)
 - d. Early on in His ministry, when Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he offered to give back authority over the earth to Jesus.
 - e. The devil took Jesus up on a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." (**Lk. 4:5-6**)
 - f. Satan was offering Jesus the opportunity to reclaim what had been forfeited and delivered to him through Adam without having to go through the pain and suffering of the cross.
 - g. When Jesus responded to Satan, He didn't say, "*the earth and it's kingdoms are not yours to give*", He simply said, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (**Lk. 4:8**)
5. The earth that was given over to man, was relinquished to Satan. But according to the rules of inheritance "If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold." (**Lev. 25:25**)
- a. When Adam sinned, he was bankrupted and was forced to give up his inheritance, his claim of authority over the earth. And only a kinsman, a close relative, was entitled to reclaim what had been lost.
 - b. But he would have to be able to pay the price for which it had been sold. That price was sin. If Jesus were to come and reclaim man's lost dominion, the only way He could do so was through paying for the sins of all humanity. And as you are all aware, "the wages of sin is death" (**Rom. 6:23a**)
- E. Understanding this situation, that all was not currently under subjection to man because of sin, the author of Hebrews writes in verse 9, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels [just like man, He submitted to becoming one of us] for the suffering of death.
1. By the grace of God, He came and tasted death for us and He was crowned with glory and honor [just like man was] when He defeated death, rose from the grave, and subsequently ascended to the Father.
 2. The only way Jesus could reclaim the lost dominion of man was to come as a human and pay the price for our sins, to die for the sins of all humanity. It was the only way for man to be able to regain that claim.
 3. And Jesus' claim will be consummated at His second coming, when He will return to the earth with judgment upon a Christ rejecting world. This is described in the book of Revelation and begins with a description of Jesus as the lamb who was slain for us. A scroll sealed w/ seven seals was there in heaven and a strong angel with a loud voice proclaimed "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" (**Rev. 5:2**)
 4. And John, who was given this revelation wept when there seemed to be no one who was able to open the scroll. But an elder said to John, "'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.' And [John] looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain..." (**Rev. 5:6a**)
 5. Jesus, the lion and the lamb, came and took the scroll and when He did so the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell prostrate before Him

and they sang a song, "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." (Rev. 5:9)

6. After opening the scroll and unleashing God's judgment upon the earth, Jesus will set up a millennial kingdom where man will once again rule over the earth as God intended. Jesus will reign supreme as God in human flesh, and we will reign alongside Him. Thus, fulfilling God's original plan for the earth to be in subjection to man and also fulfilling the prophetic word of Psalm chapter 8.

7. So Jesus had to become a man in order to restore man's lost dominion.

F. Let's move on, because we still have six more reasons to highlight as to why Jesus had to become a man. Take a look at verse 10.

IV. Hebrews 2:10;

A. The author states it was fitting, meaning it was proper and the only right way of doing things; to make the captain of man's salvation perfect through sufferings.

1. This captain of man's salvation is of course referring to Jesus Christ.

a. The word "captain" in the Greek speaks of an originator, founder, or pioneer; a trailblazer who leads the way into something new.

b. Jesus is the captain of our salvation. He went before us and paved a way for us to be reconciled to the Father.

2. It was fitting that Christ be made perfect through suffering. If he were to bring many sons to glory, speaking of His work of salvation towards us, the only way He would be able to do so was through sufferings.

B. Jesus had to come to this earth in the form of man **in order to be made perfect through suffering.**

1. Now when the author uses the word perfect it does not in any way suggest that there was sin in Jesus, or some sort of deficiency in Him.

2. The word perfect in this context speaks of something being made complete or something reaching an intended goal. It speaks of completion. God's plan for Jesus could not be made complete without Him coming and suffering for us.

3. Jesus had to be tested. He had to come and live a life bound in human flesh. He had to face the same sort of trials and temptations that we face. He had to endure some of the most painful and pressing hardships known to man in order to fulfill His role as the captain of our salvation.

4. Despite all the pain, despite all the suffering, and the hardship that He endured, Jesus remained obedient to His Father's will. He was there in the Garden of Gethsemane praying with drops of blood dripping from his forehead over the anguish and agony He was feeling.

5. Jesus said to His disciples, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death." As if to say "*This is killing me, guys*". (Mk. 14:34)

6. He prayed "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." (Mk. 14:36)

7. Jesus could barely take it anymore. He cried out three times for God to take the cup away from Him. The cup He was referring to, was His cup of suffering. He begged the Father to remove it over and over again. But ultimately was yielded to God's will and plan.

8. Jesus did indeed endure the cup of suffering for us. And He was made perfect through sufferings. He completed the mission the Father had given to Him. The writer of Hebrews will later tell us in chapter 12 that it was "for the joy that was set before Him" [the joy of fulfilling the Father's will, the joy of redeeming us, and making a way for us to be reconciled to the Father] that He "endured the cross, despising the shame" that came along with it." (Heb. 12:2b)

C. The only way Jesus could become the captain of our salvation, and bring many sons to glory was through suffering. He had to go to the cross for us and die in our place. And the only way He could suffer and die was to come to this earth in the form of man.

D. Let's continue on. Take a look at verses 11-13 with me.

V. Hebrews 2:11-13;

A. In verses 11-13, the author quotes from two more OT sources to build upon another central idea of why Jesus had to become a man.

1. The author first quotes from Psalm 22 which is a Messianic Psalm where the Messiah is speaking forth to the Lord saying, "I will declare Your name [God's name] to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You." (Ps. 22:22)

a. The psalm portrays the Messiah as being among a congregation of people, an assembly of people he refers to as His brethren. The immediate context seems to be referring to the Jews, but understanding the completed work of the Messiah we know that this was not limited to just the Jews, but to all who would come to faith in Christ as the Messiah. We are adopted into God's family as children of God and are brothers and sisters with Christ.

2. Then the author quoted from Isaiah chapter 8 verse 17 & 18. The immediate context there is Isaiah and his children, but the author of Hebrews applies these words to the Messiah as well.

B. Each of these cross references to the OT are meant to support the idea that Christ is one with us. Verse 11 says, "both He who sanctifies [Jesus Christ] and those being sanctified [you and me and every other believer] are all of one.

1. We are united together with Christ. And amazingly the author states, for which reason, He is not ashamed to call them brethren.

2. Jesus is not ashamed to call us His own. He is not ashamed to be united with us, for us to be one with Him.
 3. And this is amazing. I often am ashamed of myself. I know my heart and how desperately wicked it is. I feel ashamed whenever I fall short of the glory of God.
 4. But Jesus knows my heart, He knows my every single sin and shortcoming. And yet, He is not ashamed to be united with me.
 5. And the same is true for each and every one of us. You may feel shame and guilt over what you've done in the past, maybe even over what you are doing currently. But Jesus is not ashamed to be united together with you. He loves you. And He calls you His own.
 6. Let that be a reminder for you this morning. That no matter what we've done, no matter what sin we've succumb to, the love of Christ is greater. His blood washes the stain of sin away and makes us white as snow.
 - a. 1 John 1:9 states, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn. 1:9)
 - b. Jesus paid the penalty for all our sins and He is not ashamed of us.
 7. I guess the question for us to consider is, "Are we ashamed of Him?"
 - a. Jesus is not ashamed to be one with us, to call us His brethren, to identify with us as part of God's family. But what about us?
 - b. Are we ashamed to identify with Him when we are around certain people? Are we ashamed to let others know that we love God and are followers of Jesus Christ? When you're at the office, or hanging out with your buddies after hours, are you ashamed to identify with Christ?
 8. May we never be ashamed of Christ and His glorious gospel message. "For it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes", according to Romans 1:16. (Rom. 1:16)
- C. We see in this section that Jesus had to become a man **in order to identify with us and to unite with us as human.**
1. He came to be one with us, to be united together with us for all of eternity. Jesus Christ took upon flesh that He may be one with us. That is how much He loves us and desires to be with us. He was willing to leave Heaven's throne room and come to this earth to suffer and die, so that He can be with us. What a wonderful truth that is.
- D. But there's more. Take a look at verse 14.
- VI. Hebrews 2:14;
- A. Why did Jesus have to become a man? Well, **in order to destroy the devil.**
1. Jesus came and tasted death for us. He died upon the cross for our sins and was buried in a tomb. But the story does not end there.
 2. For three days later He rose victoriously over death. Death could not keep Him or hold Him. Acts 2:24 tells us that it was not possible that Christ should be held by death. (Acts 2:24)
 3. Death is the result of sin. And death could not keep Jesus, because Jesus was without sin. Because Jesus was a sinless sacrifice, death and the devil had no claim over Him.
 4. Just as Jesus is the pioneer of our salvation, it could be said that the devil is the pioneer of sin. He deceived Adam and Eve in order to bring sin into the world. The bible tells us, "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning." (1 Jn. 3:8a)
 - a. In that sense, the devil had the power of death. Because he is the pioneer, or author, of sin, and sin brings death.
 5. But through His own death, Jesus Christ came and destroyed the devil.
 - a. That is what the rest of 1 Jn. 3:8 says, it says, "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil." (1 Jn. 3:8b)
 6. Now, the word destroy here does not mean to "annihilate" or to "kill", for we know Satan is still alive and active today. The word means to render inactive, idle, useless, or ineffective.
 - a. Jesus came and rendered Satan's power over death ineffective. "Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Co. 15:54b-57)
 7. Praise the Lord for His victory over death and the devil.
- B. This victory over the devil leads us to the next reason why Jesus had to become a man. Read it with me in verse 15.
- VII. Hebrews 2:15;
- A. Ever since the fall in the garden, man has been subject to sin; held in bondage by sin and in fear of the consequences of sin; namely death.
1. But because of Christ's victory over death and the devil, we no longer need to be held in bondage. We no longer need to fear death.
 2. People fear death because of the unknown. People fear what will happen to them after they die. They want to believe that they just die and everything ceases to exist, but they aren't certain. They wonder and fear "*what if there is life after death, what will happen to me when I die?*" The uncertainty surrounding death keeps people in the bondage of sin and fear.
 3. But for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, we need not fear death any longer. We know what is going to happen when we die here on earth.

4. The bible tells us to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. **(2 Co. 5:8)**
 5. We know the moment we breathe our last here on earth, will be the moment we breathe our first breath in heaven.
 6. Death for the Christian is not something to fear, but something to celebrate.
 - a. Death is just the beginning of eternity with God in heaven. Death is a promotion, a graduation, a time where we will finally be done with these flesh filled bodies. We will be given new glorified bodies, that don't feel the effects of sin and old age.
 - b. I don't know about you, but this tent is beginning to wear down. Most you guys are still young and in your prime, you'll understand later should the Lord tarry.
 - c. The day my tent gets packed up for good, is going to be a glorious day for sure. I'm going to meet my Savior face to face and it's going to be greater than anything I've ever imagined.
 7. Jesus became came to this earth as a man **in order to release us from bondage and the fear of death.**
 - a. Don't live in fear of death. Instead, live with great excitement and anticipation for the day you'll meet your Savior face to face.
- B. Let's continue on. There are two more reasons we want to highlight before we wrap this all up. Take a look at verse 16 with me.
- VIII. Hebrews 2:16, 18;
- A. The author writes of how Jesus does not give aid to angels, but to those who are of the seed of Abraham.
1. The seed of Abraham speaks of the Jewish nation. Abraham was the great patriarch of the nation of Israel.
 2. But the Bible also portrays Abraham as the father of all who would believe and trust God by faith.
 - a. Galatians 3 states, "just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.' So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham." **(Gal. 3:6-9)**
 - b. Paul continues later on in Galatians 3 stating in verse 29, "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." **(Gal. 3:29)**
 - c. If you've given your life to Christ then you are part of the seed of Abraham and it is Christ who comes and provides aid for us. But how does He do so? In what manner does He do this?
- B. Take a look at verse 18 of our text. It reads, "For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted."
1. Jesus came to this earth as a man **in order to give us aid over our temptation.** Because Jesus came and lived life here on earth as a human, He knows what it is like to be human. He knows what it is like to be a helpless babe, He knows what it is like to be a growing child, He knows what it is like to go through puberty. He knows what it is like to feel hunger, and thirst, and heartache, and body aches. He knows what it feels like to be let down, to be abandoned and forsaken. And he even knows what it is like to experience temptation.
 2. Later the author of Hebrews will write, "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." **(Heb. 4:15-16)**
 3. How does He provide aid for us? He invites us to come boldly to His throne of grace anytime we are in need, and we will obtain mercy and find the grace that is needed to overcome.
 4. When we are tempted by our flesh, by the devil, or by this world, we are invited to come to Christ who experienced the same sort of temptations we do. He knows what it is like and He offers us the aid we need. He offers mercy and grace.
 5. The bible tells us that He will provide a way of escape. In 1 Corinthians Paul writes, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." **(1 Co. 10:13)**
- C. Jesus came down to this earth as a human so that He could experience those temptations that are common to all mankind and show us the way of escape.
1. He shows us that we don't have to give in to temptation, but that we can overcome by His grace and through His mercy.
 2. He will provide a way of escape, it's up to us whether or not we will recognize those ways and take advantage of them.
- D. Let's wrap up this study by taking a look at verse 17 and noting our final reason why Jesus had to become a man. Read verse 17 with me.
- IX. Hebrews 2:17;
- A. Jesus had to come and be like us so that He could be a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things pertaining to God.
1. We've been studying through the book of Leviticus on Wednesday nights and we've been spending the last few weeks looking at the ministry of Aaron and his sons as priests.
 2. Aaron as High Priest had a very important job to do once a year on the Day of Atonement; on Yom Kippur.

- a. He would have to make sacrifices for Himself and for the people and then enter into the Holy of Holies, the place where the ark of God presided, the very presence of God, and sprinkle blood upon the mercy seat of the ark in order to make atonement for the sins of the people.
 - b. If Aaron, or whoever was serving as high priest after Aaron, did not follow God's very clearly laid out law and procedures for the sacrifices on the Day of Atonement, the penalty was death. It was a very serious matter.
3. Jesus, as our high priest also makes propitiation for the sins of the people.
- a. But unlike the high priest who would have to both offer sacrifices for himself and the people AND have to do so year by year, Jesus did not have to offer up sacrifices for Himself because He was sinless. Instead of offering up sacrifices for Himself, He offered Himself as the sacrifice. A once and for all payment for all humanity.
 - b. Jesus is both merciful and faithful. Merciful towards us and faithful towards the Father. Offering up Himself as the propitiation for our sins was a both a merciful act towards us and a faithful act toward the Father. It was all part of God's great redemption plan for humanity.
 - c. God's justice was served, and God's people were saved.
4. Jesus Christ had to become a man **in order to be our great high priest who makes propitiation for our sins.**
- a. Jesus Christ paid the price for all of our sins. He laid down His life upon the cross of Calvary that we may experience the mercy of God, the love and grace of God.
 - b. He offers to all who would put their faith in Him an opportunity to have their sins forgiven, to be reconciled to the Father. And all that He asks is that you confess your sins to Him and put your faith in His completed work for you.
 - c. His salvation isn't something that can be earned or merited. It is a gift of God's grace received through faith.
 - i. Ephesians 2:8 & 9 states, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (**Eph. 2:8-9**)
 - ii. It isn't about us trying to earn, or merit, or work for our salvation. The work has already been done.
 - d. Jesus Christ gave His very life for you. He made Himself of "no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the

name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (**Phil. 2:7-11**)

- e. Eventually every single knee will bow and confess that Jesus is Christ. The important thing to realize and understand is that it is only those who bow the knee on this side of eternity who will be welcomed into heaven with the Lord. The time to respond is now, while the breath of life still flows through you.
- f. You don't know when your final day we'll be, or when your final opportunity to respond to God's offer of salvation will be. If you haven't made the decision to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, I implore you to make that decision today. Don't put it off any longer. Receive the gift of God's salvation offered through His Son Jesus Christ.
- g. Let's pray.