

A FAITHFUL BIG BROTHER
HUMANITY AND HUMILIATION OF JESUS- PART 3
(HEBREWS 2:14-18)

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Sermon Title: *“A Faithful and Merciful Big Brother”*

- Pt. 3 of ‘The Humility and Humanity of Jesus’

The Book of Hebrews - Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:47-58

Scripture Text: Hebrews 2:14-18

Theme of Worship Service: The Son of God became man to be our faithful and merciful Big Brother, in order to seek and save His weak and fearful children, and to help them in the wilderness so that they could get home to their loving Heavenly Father.

Scriptures/Quotations for Meditation:

^{ESV} **Hebrews 2:11** For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why *he is not ashamed to call them brothers...*

^{ESV} **Hebrews 4:14-16:** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but *one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin*. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

^{ESV} **Romans 8:38-39:** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, ***will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

“Then shall the Lord raise up a new priest....And he shall execute a righteous judgment upon the earth. And he shall open the gates of paradise and shall remove the threatening sword against Adam, and Beliar shall be bound by him, and he shall give power to his children to tread upon evil spirits” (*Testament of Levi*, 18:10-12, *Pseudepigrapha*: Intertestamental literature that reveals expectations of Messiah).

“God’s end in reconciling us was to make us like Himself, and therefore He made Himself like us, and we being to partake a divine nature from Him, He partakes of a human nature with us; and therefore He was made in the likeness of man...Christ seeing His own nature in us, and that we are given to Him, cannot but love us the better; He cannot be averse to His own flesh and blood.” – **Thomas Goodwin** (*Christ Our Mediator*)

“That the Son of God should take part in human nature with the children, is the greatest and most admirable realization of divine love, wisdom, and grace...That the first and principal end of the Lord Christ’s assuming human nature, was not to reign in it, but to suffer and die in it.” – **John Owen** (*Hebrews, Vol. II*)

“For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man. God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man the substance of His mother, born in this world. Perfect God and perfect man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood. Who, although He is God and man, yet He is not two, but one Christ.” – **Athanasius**, (*On the Incarnation*).

Hymns:

1. 305 - Arise, My Soul, Arise

2. 706 - Jesus Lives, and So Shall I

3. 161 - O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire

What would a perfect “Big Brother” be like? One who would use his position and power to give us height and dignity (Not ashamed of us); one who would identify with us (Like us); one who would defend and comfort us (beat up all the bad guys when we get picked on); and one who would help us in our weaknesses, carry us when we’re weak, and show us a right example to follow. Amen.

You are never alone.

In the Lord Jesus Christ, flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood, we have that kind of Big Brother.

Remember the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11ff)? The sinful son took his inheritance as his Father’s son and went and squandered all of the good things given him. He sinfully sought life apart from his father, and found that it was an empty and dissatisfying disgusting life. He decided he would go home and become his father’s slave—at least he could eat. His father was watching for him, ran to him, and embraced him lovingly with all of his forgiveness and mercy; recognized him not as a slave, but as a son, and prepared a feast for him. But the elder brother, did not like this; he was self-righteous and far from the father in his heart although he stayed close to home.

What should the elder brother have done when the sinful son left home? He should have gone on his father’s behalf to seek and save his younger brother. Often we know in the Parable of the Prodigal Son that the Father represents God, and we see ourselves in either the elder or younger brother, but we should also see Christ in the ideal elder brother. Christ was the ideal elder brother of Israel who came on behalf of his father to bring many sons to glory!

This is what Hebrews 2:14-18 is about.

What is our BIG BROTHER like? Four specific ways we learn about our elder brother who loves us so:

- 1. He is not ashamed of our sins and weaknesses, but comes to heal us of them.**
- 2. He is like us, but thankfully unlike us as well.**
- 3. He rescues us from death fear of death.**
- 4. He helps us in times of trouble.**

OUTLINE

- 1. Not Ashamed! Jesus is Not Ashamed of Our Sins and Weaknesses**

- a. Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves; Jesus knows man in general (John 2:24-25) and our hearts in particular.
- b. Jesus was sent to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).
- c. Jesus is our Elder Brother who is faithful in bringing the many sons of the Father to glory (John 17:26; cf. Heb. 2:10-13).
- d. He rejoices over us in the midst of the congregation (Heb. 2:12; cf. Zephaniah 3:17). Although He is in heaven in His exalted state, he nevertheless is with us by His powerful Spirit (we are united to Him!).

^{ESV} **Zephaniah 3:17** The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

2. Like Us, Not Like US! Jesus is Like Us....And Unlike Us

- a. Family (Like us- v. 11, 16)
 - i. He truly was made man, the very seed of Abraham (Heb. 2:14, 16).
 - 1. Fully man, being all that man is, and doing all that man does.
 - a. Contra Apollinarianism
 - b. Contra Gnosticism
 - 2. Fully God and fully man; Deity of the Father; Humanity of his mother; one Christ, one person in two natures.
 - ii. “Likewise partook of the same things” (v. 14)
 - iii. “Yet without sin...” (Heb. 4:15).
- b. Mediator (Unlike us- v. 17b)
 - i. Perfect, yet truly tempted (Heb. 2:17)
 - ii. Perfect, completely accomplished His mission for us through His death (Heb. 2:9-10, 17-18). “Perfect through suffering...” (v. 10)
 - iii. “*Might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service to God*” (v. 17)
 - 1. Lamb of God for sacrifice- Propitiation through His blood (expiation, propitiation, atonement).
 - 2. High Priest in service.
 - 3. “Merciful” toward us as His own.
 - 4. “Faithful” toward God as our Mediator/Representative

3. Victorious Conqueror and Comforter! Jesus Rescues Us from Death and Fear of Death

- a. Death is pursuing us all.
- b. We are all under the sentence of death because of Adam's sin.
- c. Jesus comes to victoriously conquer death, our enemy, as our Great and Faithful *Archegos* and Champion.
- d. We no longer have any reason to fear death; death shall be the entrance into His glorious presence in the world-to-come.

4. Helper! Jesus Lives to Help Us in Our Trying Times of Temptation.

- a. Being tempted to grow weary?
- b. Being tempted to give up?
- c. Being tempted to distraction?
- d. Being tempted to drifting?
- e. Being tempted to _____ ?
- f. Jesus is for you; Jesus is with you; Jesus can help you by His strength and grace.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Biggs