

Hebrews 2:5-18

Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. 6 It has been testified somewhere,

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

*7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,*

8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying,

*“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”*

13 And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

What love is displayed in the flesh and blood of our Lord! Forevermore our Lord Christ is both true God and true man. He sits at the right hand of the Father as one like us, as one of us, with hands and feet, eyes and ears. Our Advocate has walked in our shoes. He has felt our feelings. He has experienced our disappointments. He can sympathize.

But was He really like us? He was God, after all. Wasn't life in this world easier for Him, then? Far from it. The devil's crosshairs were fixed on Him like no other. He wasn't fifty percent God and fifty percent man. No, He was made like us, His brothers, in every respect. When we see Him tested this first Sunday in Lent, He is truly tested. He had no easy out. He had only the Word and trust in His Father. He had what we have. For that reason, He truly could serve as our great and final high priest. He was one of us to mediate for us, to bridge the divide between us sinners and His heavenly Father, to make propitiation (an atoning sacrifice, a shedding of blood) for our sins. And because He was so tempted and tested He is able to help us when we are tested and tempted as well, and His example is useful and trustworthy.

God is not something else. God is us. No, we are not God, but our Brother is. He is not against us. He is on our team, and with Him victory is ours. He is not ashamed to call us brothers. Do not be ashamed of Him. He did not hesitate to draw near to us. Do not hesitate to

draw near to Him. He did not let any obstacle cool or inhibit His love for us. Do not let anything cool or inhibit your love for you. He has sacrificed Himself in death to save you. Let your life be a living sacrifice for Him, not to be saved, but because you are saved. And never wonder if He can identify with what you are facing. Go to Him in prayer. He has been there and done that. He is tried and true. What more reason could we need to trust Him?