

Jan 11/26 – Small Group Questions - Hebrews 1 & 2 “See what you have in Jesus!”

This epiphany season we will be working our way through the book of Hebrews as we behold Jesus. It is written to a group of urban Jewish Christians who in the face of another wave of persecution are considering stepping away from Jesus to return to Judaism. The author wants them to see what they have in Jesus, for if they see they will never want to let him go. The first four verses are one sentence in Greek, and what a sentence it is...

Read Hebrews 1:1–4

1. (1) We are dealing with a God who speaks, who desires to be known, desires relationship. What tone does this first line set for the original listeners? Us?
2. (2–4) The author makes 7 glorious claims as to who Jesus is. What are they? What do they mean? Which impacts you the most? Why?

Read Hebrews 2:5–12, 14–18

3. (6–8a) What does the author’s quotation of Psalm 8 tell us about our calling as human beings?
4. (8b) The author tells us that we do not see this being true of human beings in our present experience. Where do you see evidence for this?
5. (9) The only human who fulfills Psalm 8 is Jesus. In what ways did Jesus live into this calling?
6. (10) Jesus who is fully God becomes fully human in order to bring many to glory, to live into this calling. This truth led Darrell Johnson to say – God becomes everything he wants us to be in order that in Jesus we can become everything he wants us to be. Discuss.
7. (14–15) Jesus aids us in living into this calling by becoming the founder, the champion of our salvation. In his death and resurrection, he destroys the one who holds the power of death, Satan, and frees us from a slavery that comes from the fear of death. How does the fear of death enslave us? Keep us from living into our calling?
8. (16–18) We cannot live into this calling under our own steam, but Jesus can help us because he was made like us in every way and has faced everything that we have or will face. How might this help us live into a new humanity and how can we lay claim to it?