

**To be read Thursday evening:**

***“In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exist, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family.... Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity”***  
**Hebrews 2:1–11; 14**

These are the last few days before we enter Holy Week, a time when we turn our faces toward the cross and begin to reflect upon the supreme sacrifice that Jesus made for us there. I hope that you are spiritually preparing yourself for the most important season on the Christian calendar. Thank you for joining me here for this time of devotion together. Find a quiet place and prepare yourselves to spend a few moments in meditation and prayer. Don't hurry through this, take some deep breaths, maybe close your eyes for a minute or two, and ask the Lord to meet with you for a few peaceful moments. In the pace of our lives these days, if there is anything we truly need, it is some moments resting at the feet of Jesus.

My D-Group recently read through the book of Hebrews together. A few things really stood out to me as I read through and journaled during my reading of Hebrews:

1. If you want to know what God looks like, look at Jesus. Hebrews 1:3 says that the son is, “the exact representation of HIS (God's) being.
2. He is our Great High Priest - superior in every way to earthly priest. (Chapters 4-5).

But I want to share two other things with you; one of these is about Jesus' LIFE and the other is about his DEATH.

The writer of Hebrews wanted us to know that it was imperative, that Jesus not only Die for us, but also to Live like us. For this reason he says we are of the same family; he says that Jesus shared in our humanity. Later (Heb. 4:14-16) the author says we can approach him boldly because we have a Great High Priest who experienced all that we experience and can therefore sympathize with our suffering and our temptations - Because he shared in them... all of them.

Think about that for a while, what sin do you struggle with? The text says that Jesus put on our human clothing and experienced every temptation common to man, so that he could sympathize with us. The writer goes on to say that that fact should free us to approach him confidently and without shame, for he knows the temptation and trails we walk.

What is bothering you; what sin are you battling; what trial are you walking through? The writer of Hebrews says take it to the Great High Priest, who has shared in your humanity and who understands your trials, because he has shared in them.

*Spend some time taking your trials and temptation to the Lord who is one of us and totally understands our struggles*

**To be read Friday Morning:**

The other thing that struck me in Hebrews, was not the fact that Jesus died for us, but also the manner in which He died. The writer said, "it was fitting that God would make the author of our salvation perfect through suffering.

We have all learned, since we were young children (if we were brought up in church) that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). We all have also learned that the free gift of God is salvation because of the fact that Jesus paid our sin debt. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only son to die for us."

But the author of Hebrews also seems to stress not only the theological transaction that happened in Jesus' death - His holiness for our sin - but also the importance of HOW Jesus died. I've often pondered this question: If Jesus only needed to die for our sin to satisfy the price of sin, could there have not been a more *subtle* manner for him to die?

The Cross, had to be, the most grueling death possible. What was the need or purpose for such a death? Based on the book of Hebrews, and the insistence that Jesus had to be made like his brothers, and that he had to share in our humanity, it was fitting for Jesus to die in this manner for at least two reasons:

1. So that He could be a perfectly sympathetic priest, because he had also faced suffering equal to or greater than any other man would ever experience.
2. That we would never think of Grace as free, but would always remember the very high price that Jesus paid for our sin.

Spend some time thinking about the transaction that took place when Jesus paid the price for our sin. Thank Him for dying in your place. thank Him for the forgiveness you can live in because of His sacrifice.

Now, think not only about the theological transaction that took place when Jesus died for you, also spend some time thinking about the manner in which He paid that price. Thank about how incredibly free Grace is actually not. Think about the great suffering that Jesus endured to purchase that Grace for us.

Give thanks for that Grace, and remember that Jesus shared in your suffering, so He understands. Take your sorrows to Him.