

I was talking to a man once about theology. He came into my office and he kinda had some questions but the heart of his attitude towards theology was that it didn't really matter. He would tell me that theology is just for pastors or people who care about that. He just wanted to do ministry, read the Bible, and he didn't have to worry about any of that.

There's a few problems with that attitude. One of the problems is that all of us are always doing theology. If you have any beliefs or thoughts about God that is theology. So the question isn't whether any of us are gonna do theology, but if we're gonna do good theology or not.

The other problem was that he totally misunderstood the purpose behind theology. He thought theology was just some kind of intellectual exercise for people who cared about that stuff. But that it didn't have any pragmatic or real world applications. Because ultimately part of the purpose of doing theology is it helps bring us comfort.

One of the things that I want us to see as we're doing theology in this series on the incarnation is that when we have a better theology, it actually strengthens our faith. Not just because we have more of an idea about God. But when crisis comes. When hard times fall upon us, we will be able to find greater comfort in God and make it through.

It's so this morning, as we are learning and thinking more deeply about the incarnation of Jesus. I want you to see that each of these ideas about God. Each of these theological truths are meant to bring you comfort here and now.

So that is my hope this morning. As we turn in our Bibles to Hebrews 2, I want to show you why this passage should be encouraging for us. We will see three encouraging reasons that Jesus became man. And each of these should comfort us.

Stand with me as you are able for the reading of God's Word.

### **I. Jesus became a man because He loves us (2:5-9)**

This is the first reason the incarnation should encourage us.

It is a reminder that God loves us.

Why did Jesus become man?

Because He loves you.  
He was motivated by love for you.  
Not only humanity as a whole.  
Not just as a nameless mass.  
He knew you specifically.  
He knew what your name would be before your parents did.  
Brianna and I are still trying to decide on the name of our baby.  
We go back and forth.  
But God already knows her name.  
And He knows yours.  
He knows everything about you and every hair on your head.  
He knows all of your inside jokes.  
He knows the best parts of you.  
He also knows the worst things.  
He knows what is annoying about you.  
He knows the part you hate the most about yourself.  
He knows your secrets.  
He knows what you are the most ashamed of.  
He knows all of your secret sins.  
And He loves you.  
No one knows you as deeply as Jesus does.  
And no one loves you as fully as Jesus does.  
And He became a human being to save us because He loved us.

This is part of the heart of the incarnation.  
It is not meant to be an empty doctrinal study we only think about in  
seminary classrooms.  
It is the revelation of the love of God.  
And the love Jesus has for humanity is unbelievable and almost defies  
logic.  
How could God love us if He really knew us?  
But He does know us.  
And He does love us.

Look at verse 5, **"For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking."**

This can seem a little high and lofty.

But the passage is saying that God did not come into the world for the sake of angels.

Jesus did not become like an angel.

He became a man.

Which is unbelievable.

We as a people are fascinated by angels.

We have television shows about angels.

We make all different kinds of art trying to imagine what they may look like.

All of us would probably love or give almost anything to ever be able to see an angel.

We love the stories of them visiting people in the Bible like Mary or Abraham.

Jesus is not amazed by the angels.

The angels do not get the same grace we do.

The angels also fell and sinned.

There are fallen angels who will spend an eternity apart from God.

They will spend an eternity in judgment and hell.

We call them demons.

But God did not indwell the flesh of angels.

He did not come to save the angels from their sins.

He came for us.

God loves us and values you and mankind more than angels.

Verse 6 quotes from psalms 8, **"What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you care for him,"**

This is really the question.

Why does God love us so much?

All of the things that God created in the universe.

God made unbelievable animals.  
He creates from the bizarre and unique like the platypus.  
To the Majestic lion.  
Cats and dogs and other animals that display incredible affection and loyalty and love.

He created nature outside.  
Just spend a moment, walking outside your door, gaze at the mountains.  
Look over the plains as the wind whips through it.  
Look at the incredible beauty of sunrise.  
Look close at a flower and its glory.  
Look up at night at the stars.  
Think of the wonders of the cosmos and the planets.  
The mysteries that are hidden in a black hole.  
The power in the ocean's waves.  
The wonder in its depths.

All of these things are unbelievable and incredible  
And God is not amazed by those things.  
God is not amazed by the angels and the creatures that live in heaven.

The angels in Ezekiel 10 are described like wheels that have eyes all over their bodies.  
In Isaiah 6, the Seraphim are the angels who attend to the Lord day and night.  
They have six wings.  
Two covering their feet, two covering their faces, and two to fly.  
Revelation 4 describes four living creatures like the Seraphim.  
They have six wings, but are like a lion, an ox, an eagle, and a man.  
Constantly they cry out "holy, holy, holy."  
These creatures are so incredible they have inspired endless books and attempts to depict them in art.  
But God is not supremely mindful of them.  
Instead, somehow somehow, God is mindful of you and me.

God cares about us and He loves us.  
Even as we try to ruin and destroy all of the other wonderful things that he's made yet he is mindful of us.  
Even as our world is filled with wickedness, rebellion, and sin.  
Even as our own lives can become a wreck.  
God is mindful of us.

It is undeserved.  
We are not that impressive.  
Even the greatest among us or those with the most beautiful bodies.  
We do not deserve and are not owed the love of God.  
And yet, He is mindful of us.

Verse 7, **"you made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet"**

I think this has a dual meaning  
I think it is both about humanity generally.  
And it is also about Jesus specifically.  
Because humanity has been made lower than the angelic beings.  
Any human has ever seen an angel would say they are greater creatures than we are.

Well, we are lower than them.  
They are greater beings.  
They get to exist in the spiritual realm.  
They have seen and beheld God as He is.  
Some sit in the throne room with Him.  
The simple appearance of them is usually filled with so much glory it either makes people terrified or it makes them want to worship them.  
Our glory is not so splendid.  
And yet, we have been given a greater glory as we have been given the love of God.  
We have been given so much glory and honor.

When God created the world and placed man in the garden,  
God gave the earth to humanity to rule over.  
We have been put in charge despite our lowly state.

So part of this is about the wonder and glory of mankind.  
But this is also about Jesus specifically because He greater than the angels  
for a time made Himself lower as He became man.  
The incarnation was the willingness of God to lower Himself to less than  
angels even though He is their Creator.  
And then everything specifically is subject not just humanity, but to the  
greatest human being, Jesus Christ.  
The lowest moment on the cross was actually His victory.

**"now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing  
outside of his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in  
subjection to him."**

Everything is in subjection to Jesus, there is nothing outside of his control.  
And yet we know that it does not seem like it.  
We don't see that this has happened yet.  
God's grace we talked about at the end of second Peter his return is slow.  
He has not yet made everyone down their knees and profess with their  
tongues that he is Lord.

Our sight and our perspective is limited.  
We are like a people who live underground and cannot see the world  
beyond the hill.  
Or a child in a crowd that can't see over adults shoulders.

One of the things I loved about growing up in Nebraska and I love about  
the plains is that you can see for miles.  
When you are driving on the highway you can see towns coming miles  
away.  
It was hard when I moved to Virginia for school.  
Because it was in the mountains and covered with forests.

You could barely see around the bend let alone the mountain.  
I knew there was something ahead, but I couldn't see it.

It is the same way with Jesus.  
He is in control.  
All things are completely subjected to Him.  
We just can't tell yet.  
We don't have the right perspective.

Verse 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."**

This is where it makes it really clear that this is about Jesus  
Even though He was the one who made the angels for a time lower than angels.

He is crowned with honor because He died for us.  
And He tasted death out of love for us  
He tasted death in order that we do not have to die.  
He became a man that we might become like Him.

**"What is man, that He is so mindful of us?"**

Sometimes I hear people try to downplay the love of God  
Or I will hear people mock those who harp on it.  
Or as if that's only a simple childish way to explain God and once you grow up, you can leave childish things behind and move onto the deep of truths scripture.

I hear this especially when we talk about worship music.  
Some people complain about worship music songs just sound like love songs, except they're about God.  
One of my personal favorites, and we have sung it hear a few times but not super often.  
It is called "How He loves"  
It is just about God's love for us.

And people complain about it.  
Because it should be deeper.  
And they say this like a complaint.  
The miraculous of God's love is something ordinary and boring.  
They complain about how we sing songs that make it sound like God loves us too much.  
There is a song we sing sometimes that has a line "You didn't want heaven without us."  
And I have heard pastors' complain about this song.  
As if believers will only be in heaven on accident.  
If God didn't want people in heaven, then no humans would be there.  
God loves us and He loves us greatly.  
His love is miraculous, His love is incredible.  
His love is worth singing about.  
We go through this Christmas and as we think about the incarnation I want you to think about to remember that Jesus came and was born because he loves you.  
Do not think that you are too old to remember that.  
Don't assume it is for children or the weak.  
We all need to remember and be comforted by the love of God.

## **II. Jesus became man to save us from suffering and death (2:10-16)**

The incarnation is comforting.  
But it also has everything to do with our salvation.  
As part of our salvation, Jesus suffered with us.

Verse 10, **"For it was fitting that he for whom and by whom all things exist, in brining many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering."**

But His suffering was not just a punishment.  
His suffering was not just a byproduct of Him having become human.  
Jesus came on this earth to suffer.  
It was His purpose and intention.  
And through His suffering, He came to destroy suffering.

So again, a remember of the divinity of Jesus  
Jesus became man, but He is first and foremost God  
He is the one who made all things and He is also the reason that we all  
exist  
And yet He became man He became like us to save us

**"The founder of our salvation"**

We can get excited about different founders like the founding fathers of  
our country, but there is no greater founder than the founder of our  
salvation. Jesus Christ.

And He became man to save us.  
And how could He save us?  
How could He deliver us from our sins?  
He did it through suffering and death  
He had to suffer, and he had to die in order to save.  
Our salvation was purchased with the blood body of Christ.

Verse 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"**

Our salvation involves our sanctification.  
Sanctifies, we are justified in the eyes of God and declared and made  
righteous, and then he continues the work of salvation through our  
sanctification  
Saints  
This means how we become saints  
It is how we become more and more like Jesus because he became more  
and more like us

Our comes from a strong source  
How can we be more like Jesus it does not come from ourselves.  
Sanctification is not rooted in incredible spiritual practices  
Our sanctification comes from the same source as the sanctification of  
Jesus

Sanctification comes from Christ  
It doesn't come from anywhere else.

And it comes through the suffering of Jesus.  
The way of Christ is the cross.  
The primary way of sanctification is suffering.  
We take up our crosses and we follow Jesus.  
We become more like Jesus when we suffer like Christ did.  
It is the fuel of our sanctification.  
We hit this over and over when we studied 1 Peter.

Our salvation also involves our adoption.  
This is one of my favorite pictures of salvation.  
We have been adopted into the family of God.  
No one can adopt themselves.  
You cannot make or force someone else to adopt you.  
Even if you wanted them to.  
they have to be the ones who initiate.  
And this is what Jesus does.  
He came down so that we could be adopted.  
Christ calls us our brothers and sisters.  
This is why we are to called each other brothers and sisters in Christ.  
Because we have truly been adopted as sons and daughters of God.  
Through the incarnation of Jesus, He is our brother.

He goes on to quote Psalms 22, 95, and Isaiah 8:18.

Verse 12, **"Saying, I will tell of your name to my brothers in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise"**

He the author is saying these are ultimately about Christ.

He sings our praises.

He is proud and glad we are in His family.

The end of 13, **"Behold, I and the children God has given me."**

God saved us and is proud of us.

He loves us.

These almost give the image of Christ showing us of like new parents want to show everyone their baby picture.

And if you don't like babies you might not care or think the kid looks weird.

But God loves us.

And He did everything to save us.

To adopt us into His family.

We are not the black sheep hidden out in the back.

We are not someone who has been forgotten.

Jesus came to get us and to bring us back.

Verse 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"**

This is kind of the key we are the children

We are the ones who are stuck in the bodies of flesh and blood, and all the weaknesses there of

Jesus became part of the same things.

In 2 Peter 1, we talked about how we can become partakers of the divine nature

We can only partake of the divine nature because Jesus has partaken of the human nature.

He became like us so that we could become like him.

In Jesus became a man that He could die

Christmas is a joyful season. It's one that we often associate with happiness and gladness and gifts.

Jesus was not born in Bethlehem for good and wonderful things

He was born to suffer and experience death.

And death came for him right away as Herod murdered countless baby boys trying to find Him.

Jesus came to die.

He came to experience the worst part of being human, not just the best.  
He partake of all the things we have.  
He felt hunger and thirst.  
He felt abandonment and betrayal of friends.  
He felt His own family reject Him.  
He saw His closest friends run away and deny Him when it counted.  
And He felt death.

There is great comfort here.  
It is a reminder that when you feel pain.  
When you are anxious.  
When you just feel numb and empty from depression.  
All of the worst things you have felt, Jesus has felt too.  
He knows what it means.

And He felt all of that for us.  
And He did it so that He could destroy death  
In order to defeat, Satan and the one who holds the power of suffering  
and pain.

Verse 15, **"And deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."**

Jesus became man so that he could deliver us who are stuck in the slavery  
of death and sin and suffering.

Jesus died.

But he died so He could save us from death

He died to destroy our greatest enemy and our most hated foe

Verse 16, **"For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham."**

Verse again as a great reminder of the beauty of the incarnation,

Jesus did not become like an angel to deliver angels.

He became a man to save us from suffering.

Human beings are not the only ones who sinned  
There are angels that sinned and they sinned before we did  
They rebelled and rejected God, and cast out of heaven, the presence of  
God

Jesus did not become an angel to deliver the angels from sin and death to  
bring them salvation. Instead, He became like us.

The offspring of Abraham

The incarnation should bring us comfort.

Not just because it is the mechanism of our salvation, but because God  
loves us, and he loves us enough to suffer to die in order to save us.

He suffered what we have suffered.

He suffered what we should have had to suffer.

And He did so to bring us salvation.

### **III. Jesus became man to be like us (2:17-18)**

This is one of my favorite passages in all the scriptures

Verse 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."**

Jesus was like us in every way.

Every respect means there is not one part of being human that Jesus did  
not experience

Jesus did not just get to experience all the wonders and glory of being  
human and miss out on the downsides.

He took it all.

This is why the incarnation is so wonderful and so mind blowing

He came to be like us.

Truly and fully.

And He did this so that He could be merciful to us

Merciful to us because He knows how hard it is

He is merciful and faithful.

The high priest was the leader and mediator between man and God.  
But our mediator now is Christ.  
And He knows what we go through.

He was also like us to be a propitiation for our sins.  
It basically means He was the sacrifice we needed.  
He paid the price for our sins with His body and blood.  
And now we are made right with God.  
He did once and for all what every other high priest failed to do.  
And what they could not do.

Verse 18, **"For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."**

He has experience the suffering of temptation  
Jesus knows exactly how hard it is to follow Jesus  
Jesus knows how tempting it is to have the sexual desires in your body fill up  
Jesus knows what it feels like when your body and your heart and your mind are overcome with rage and anger that you want and you feel like you have to say something you have to let something out  
Jesus knows the temptation to lie is  
Jesus knows what the temptation to give up on people who are annoying and frustrating is like  
Jesus knows how hard it is to every day. Continue to make the right choice even when everyone around you is doing the wrong thing

Jesus understands what our temptation is like.  
He spent forty straight days experiencing only temptation to sin.  
He did not eat.  
He did not drink.  
He was completely alone with only the devil for company.  
And every moment He was tempted to sin.

I don't know if you have ever fasted long, or tried to go long without water.

It is brutal and awful.

During wrestling I would not eat for a day or two.

And all I did the entire time was dream and think about food.

Jesus knows what that is like.

And because He knows He is why merciful to us

This is why He shows us so much grace

There are times we wonder and we can feel embarrassed when we come to repent again for that thing that we've repented about 1000 times before and we begin to think and wonder that God must hate us. He must be so sick of us that we've got to be on very thin ice, and God is probably going to cast us out very soon.

But the reason that God will not is because he is compassionate towards us.

He is merciful he knows how hard it is

He knows how much some of us have struggled to hold onto our faith in the middle of suffering

And because He knows this is why he can be faithful. He is a faithful priest.

He is the only and mostly faithful priest.

We have failed. He has been good.

Sometimes we wonder if there are any good leaders out there.

If there are really any pastors out there who can endure whole faithful life themselves and becoming an embarrassment for the kingdom of God?

Israel had to wonder can we get any king that are even kind of like David

We know David was pretty bad and He was about the best that we got

Is there anybody who can be a good priest who isn't stealing from God makes the right sacrifices?

Jesus is the faithful priest.

He is the only one who does not fail.

Who does not sin.

Because He has done this, he can make a propitiation for the sins of our people

He can do what the high priests were always meant to do.

He does it fully and truly.

Not with animals, but with Himself.

Also your attention to Hebrews chapter 4:14-16

**"For we do not have high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect have been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then draw near to th throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."**

When you are when you find yourself needing to repent again when you find yourself stuck in another problem, even if it's a problem that you created yourself by your own foolishness

I want you to remember that God knows.

You can go with confidence before Jesus, knowing that Jesus loves you, knowing that Jesus came to save you and knowing that Jesus was just like you

And we know that we can find mercy.

If you do not know, Jesus were not a Christian.

Come to Jesus in faith.

Come to Jesus and you will find forgiveness and grace.

You do not have to worry about the size of your sin and failure.

Because Jesus can sympathize with your weakness.

And believers, we too should come with confidence to God.

The righteous fall seven times and get back up.

We can come to Jesus again and again, knowing that He is like us.

And He loves us.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. [Summary] Jesus became man because He loves us. Jesus became man to save us from suffering and death. And Jesus became man to be like us.

This is what I mean when I said the incarnation should be something that comfort us

The more that we understand, the implications of the incarnation

The more we understand the machinations of the incarnation

Help us not growing our love for Jesus

And help us be encouraged

Because we understand, God, that we worship loves us and loves us deeply give us strength to come to our time of need.

Studying Jesus, studying theology, studying your Bible, studying the incarnation,

It should change your life and your heart.

We don't study it to learn more interesting facts.

If studying and reading the Word does not make you more like Christ than you are doing it wrong.

We study to be comforted and to grow like Jesus.