

Expanded Report: Christ's Humanity and Suffering (Hebrews 2:5-18)

Prologue: The Significance of Christ's Humanity

As the family gathered for their evening study, Ryan opened the Bible to Hebrews 2:5-18. In this passage, the author emphasizes the significance of Jesus' humanity and His willingness to suffer for the sake of salvation. Jesus, though divine, was made "a little lower than the angels" and experienced human suffering, temptation, and death in order to bring redemption to humanity. This passage assures believers that Jesus, as fully human, can deeply sympathize with their struggles and is fully able to help them in times of temptation and hardship.

"Tonight, we're going to talk about how Jesus, in His humanity, understands our struggles and is able to help us when we face temptation," Ryan said. "Because He became like us in every way, He is able to relate to our experiences and provide the help we need."

Ariel, intrigued by the idea of Jesus suffering, asked, "So, Jesus experienced suffering just like we do?" "Yes," Ryan nodded. "He became fully human, which means He didn't just live a perfect life on earth; He also faced real struggles and temptation. And because of that, He understands what we go through and is able to help us."

Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter, added, "So, Jesus knows what it feels like when we're sad or upset?" "That's right," Yaya smiled. "Jesus understands our pain because He experienced it Himself. He knows exactly how we feel."

Key Teachings: The Humanity of Christ and His Ability to Help

1. Jesus Made Lower Than the Angels

Hebrews 2:5-9

"For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands."

- **Jesus' Humility and Humanity:**

Ryan explained, "In these verses, the author explains that Jesus was made 'a little lower than the angels.' This means that, even though Jesus is divine, He humbled Himself to take on human nature. He became like us in every way, experiencing the limitations of humanity, even though He was and is fully God."

Ariel asked, "So, Jesus was like us in that He was human, but He was also God?"

"Exactly," Ryan said. "Jesus was fully God and fully man. He chose to become like us to experience life as we do—so that He could understand our struggles and ultimately save us."

- **Jesus' Humiliation for Our Benefit:**

Ryan continued, "Jesus' choice to become 'lower than the angels' means that He willingly took on the limitations of humanity. He could have stayed in His heavenly glory, but He chose to come to earth to rescue us. This is a picture of how much God loves us—He was willing to humble Himself for our sake."

Yaya added, "Jesus' humility shows us how much He cares for us. He didn't stay distant or separate from our struggles—He entered into them fully."

2. Christ's Suffering and Temptation

Hebrews 2:10-18

"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings... For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."

- **The Necessity of Jesus' Suffering:**

Ryan explained, "In verse 10, it says that Jesus was made perfect through suffering. This doesn't mean that Jesus was imperfect before, but that His suffering completed His role as our Savior. His suffering shows us that He can truly identify with our pain and struggles, and He endured it all for the purpose of bringing us to salvation."

Ariel asked, "So, Jesus had to suffer for us to be saved?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "Jesus' suffering and death were necessary for our salvation. He didn't just come to live a perfect life; He came to suffer, die, and rise again so that we could be forgiven and restored to God."

- **Temptation and Compassion:**

Ryan continued, "Verse 18 tells us that because Jesus has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help us when we face temptation. Jesus understands what it's like to be tempted, and He is able to give us the strength to resist and overcome it."

Yaya added, "Jesus' suffering and temptation make Him the perfect Helper. He knows what it's like to be weak and tempted, but He also shows us how to overcome it, by relying on God's strength."

3. Jesus is Not Ashamed to Call Believers His Brothers and Sisters

Hebrews 2:11-12

"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren."

- **The Family of God:**

Ryan explained, "This verse shows us that Jesus, though divine, is not ashamed to call believers His brothers and sisters. Through His suffering, He has sanctified us—set us apart for God—

and made us part of God's family. Jesus is our older Brother, and He's proud to call us His own."

Ariel asked, "So, Jesus isn't just our Savior—He's like our Brother?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "Jesus is the one who saves us, but He's also our Brother. He has entered into our humanity, experienced our struggles, and made us part of God's family."

- **The Intimacy of Our Relationship with Christ:**

Ryan continued, "This is a beautiful reminder that our relationship with Jesus isn't just distant or formal—He is intimately connected with us. He understands us completely, and He calls us His own, as a Brother would."

Yaya added, "It's amazing to think that Jesus, the Son of God, calls us His family. He's not distant or detached from us—He's close, and He wants us to experience His love and care every day."

4. The Key Teaching: Christ's Humanity Enables Him to Fully Sympathize with and Help Believers

Key Teaching:

The key teaching of this passage is that Jesus' humanity allows Him to fully sympathize with believers and provide the help they need. By becoming human, Jesus not only identified with our struggles and suffering but also showed us how to overcome them. He is able to help us in our time of need, offering us strength in our temptations and comfort in our suffering. Because Jesus knows what it's like to be human, He is the perfect Savior and Helper, one who is always ready to provide the support we need. His suffering and temptation make Him the ultimate source of comfort and aid for those who follow Him.

Ryan summarized, "Jesus' humanity is not just a part of His story—it's a crucial aspect of how He is able to help us. Because He became human, He understands our weaknesses and struggles, and He offers us grace and strength to endure. When we face temptation or suffering, we can turn to Him, knowing He has been there and is ready to help."

Practical Applications: Embracing Christ's Sympathy and Help

The family discussed how they could apply these teachings in their daily lives:

1. **Turning to Jesus for Help in Temptation:**

Ariel suggested, "When I feel tempted to do something wrong, I can remember that Jesus understands what I'm going through, and I can pray and ask Him for strength to resist."

Alice added, "I can talk to Jesus when I feel sad or upset, knowing He knows how it feels and can help me."

2. **Relying on Christ's Strength in Times of Struggle:**

Ryan encouraged them, "When we face difficulties or challenges, we can remember that Jesus

has suffered too, and He is able to help us. We can go to Him for comfort and strength, knowing He understands.”

3. **Living as Part of God’s Family:**

Yaya reminded them, “Since Jesus calls us His brothers and sisters, we can approach Him with confidence, knowing that He loves us and wants to help us grow. We can also be part of His family, showing love and compassion to one another.”

Takeaway: Jesus Understands and Helps Us in Our Weakness

As the family reflected, Yaya shared a story of how Jesus’ humanity comforted her in a difficult time. “There was a season when I was struggling with fear and doubt. But when I remembered that Jesus had faced those same struggles, it helped me feel less alone. I could go to Him and find peace, knowing that He understood.”

Ariel smiled, “So, when we’re struggling, we can turn to Jesus, because He knows exactly how we feel?”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “and that’s one of the most beautiful things about Jesus. He’s not distant or indifferent—He’s right there with us, ready to help.”

Key Points Summary

1. **Christ’s Humanity Makes Him the Perfect Helper:**

- Because Jesus became fully human, He understands our suffering and temptation, and He is able to help us in our times of need.

2. **Jesus’ Suffering Is the Key to Our Salvation:**

- Jesus’

suffering was necessary to bring about our salvation. His experience of pain and temptation makes Him the perfect Savior.

3. **Christ’s Call to Us as His Family:**

- Jesus is not ashamed to call believers His brothers and sisters. Through His suffering, He has made us part of God’s family.
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Key Verse:

“For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:18)

This passage teaches us that Jesus, through His humanity and suffering, is able to fully sympathize with us and provide the help we need in times of temptation and struggle. We can approach Him confidently, knowing that He understands and is ready to offer us strength and grace.