

Week Four: The Implications of the Incarnation

Introduction

Jesus renders Satan's main threat meaningless. Jesus delivers us, makes satisfaction for sin, and comes to our aid.

Digging Deeper

It can be confusing to try to understand why God must become man in order to restore man to a relationship with God. But, that is precisely what happened in the incarnation. The explanation of the necessity of incarnation is presented in these verses from Hebrews.

Chapter Two, verses 14 and 15 are one sentence and explain that Jesus has every characteristic of mankind. He is the same as us, to the extent of being "flesh and blood." There is no denying His humanity in the mind of the author of Hebrews. As simple as this statement seems, it is of utmost importance for the rest of the explanation of the work of Jesus. Jesus' victory over death takes away the devil's favorite tool - we are no longer trapped by sin and crippled by our fear of death.

Because Jesus was like us in every way, He can transform us through His resurrection. He is the high priest that is guiding our spiritual pilgrimage. With death defeated and our greatest fear eliminated, we are capable of successful living. Christ has satisfied every demand against us. The devil is forced to release us from slavery and the wrath of God has been set aside.

The humanity, propitiation, and resurrection of Christ complete our journey from darkness into light. Freed from the bondage of sin and fear of death; we find ourselves ready to live a life fulfilling our purpose.

Bible Study Questions

Read Hebrews 2:14-18

1. Who are the children of v. 14?
2. Have a member or your group look up "docetic." How does v.14 answer doceticism?

3. Through what means did Christ Jesus destroy the devil? Why then is evil still present?
4. How has Jesus delivered those in slavery from the fear of death?
5. In what ways is Jesus a merciful and faithful high priest?
6. According to v. 18, suffering is a part of being tempted. Why is this so?
7. How is Jesus able to come to our aid when we are tempted? How is this help expressed in practical terms?

Group Application Questions

1. Can you explain the necessity of an atoning sacrifice?
2. Why is it mandatory that Jesus be fully “flesh and blood?”
3. What do you intend to do this week to fulfill your kingdom purpose?

Prayer

Take time to share prayer requests then have someone read 2 Corinthians 5:11–21.

Have someone else in the group pray through the following points:

- Thank Jesus for dying on a cross for you.
- Thank God for providing a way of reconciliation, so that you and he could talk to each other and you could know him.
- Ask for the perspective to see others as new creations in Christ.

*Digging Deeper and Group Application Questions were adapted from Richland Hills Community Church, Kent Hughes’ Hebrews Commentary (An Anchor for the Soul), and The NIV Application Commentary by George H. Guthrie.

