

"WHY DID MY SAVIOR COME TO EARTH?"

Hebrews 2:9-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. I know that many in the audience today have seen the movie, "The Passion of the Christ."
 - 1. It is a powerful depiction of the last twelve hours in the life of our Lord.
 - 2. I can't describe the feeling I had as I left the theater, and I recommend you go see it if you think you can handle the violence depicted in the beating of Jesus.
- B. Why did Jesus submit to such scorn, ridicule, pain and beating from His own creation?
- C. That is a good question: "Why Did My Savior Come To Earth?"
- D. To determine WHY, today we will study from **Hebrews 2:9-18**.
- E. Jesus was "made a little lower than the angels," **Hebrews 2:9**.
 - 1. Became man, who also is a "little lower than the angels," **v.7**.
 - 2. He had to have perfect Divinity and perfect humanity. Anything less than this, and He could not be the Savior we need.
- F. This morning, let's answer the question "Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?"

I. THAT HE MIGHT TASTE DEATH FOR EVERY MAN. Hebrews 2:9.

- A. He experienced death.
 - 1. He wasn't immune to the pain and anguish of death.
 - 2. He didn't just fall asleep. He *really died*.
 - 3. When the soldiers came to break His legs, they found Him already dead, **John 19:33**.
- B. Tasted death for man.
 - 1. He gained no advantage by leaving heaven, suffering and dying. **2 Corinthians 8:9**.
 - 2. "Yet *for your sakes* He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." **2 Corinthians 8:9**.
 - 3. It was an UNSELFISH act for those he loved.
- C. For EVERY man.
 - 1. No restrictions on who may come to him in obedience.
 - 2. "For there is NO RESPECT OF PERSONS with God," **Acts 10:34, 35**.
- D. He didn't take death away from us...we will still die, **Hebrews 9:27**.
- E. But He tasted death for our benefit.

II. SO THAT HE COULD CALL US BRETHREN. Hebrews 2:11.

- A. Since we have the same Father, we can then be called brethren.
 - 1. He which sanctifies: Jesus.
 - 2. They who are sanctified: mankind.
 - 3. He is not ashamed: one as exalted and holy as Jesus might be ashamed to acknowledge such. Has anyone ever been ashamed to acknowledge they know you?
- B. He became like us so he could understand us as brethren. He can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, **Hebrews 4:15**

III. THAT HE MIGHT DESTROY THE DEVIL. Hebrews 2:14.

- A. "Destroy:" not annihilate or kill, but rather to "subdue", overcome, destroy his dominion.
- B. Him that had the power of death:
 - 1. Satan introduced sin and death into the world in the Garden of Eden. *"He was a murderer from the beginning," John 8:44.*
 - 2. Although not every death comes directly from him, many do. (drunk drivers, drug users, sexually-transmitted diseases, AIDS, etc.)
- C. How did Christ do this? By fulfilling the first prophesy in the Bible. **Genesis 3:15.**
 - 1. Satan bruised his heel: had him put to death on the cross. (a small wound)
 - 2. Christ delivered a mortal wound to Satan by rising from the dead, conquering death.

IV. TO DELIVER FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH. Hebrews 2:15.

- A. The fear of death is common. Why?
 - 1. It is UNCERTAIN. What is it like?
 - 2. It is usually associated with PAIN.
 - 3. The thought of it brings great SADNESS.
 - 4. It is a LONELY thought.
- B. Job called death the "*KING OF TERRORS*," **Job 18:14.**
 - 1. But faith in Christ frees us from all such fears and torments. **ILLUSTRATION: SURVIVING THE RIVER OF DEATH.** (See below).
 - 2. We can say as Paul, "O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?" **1 Corinthians 15:55**
 - 3. We can say as David, "Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me." **Psalms 23:4**
- C. "All their lifetime subject to bondage:" Some are slaves to the fear of death. They can't live for thinking about dying.
- D. Though few look forward to death, we do not need to fear it excessively.

V. TO BECOME A MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST. Hebrews 2:17.

- A. High Priest:
 - 1. The Jewish High Priest was a successor of Aaron and at the head of the religion of the Jews.
 - 2. Jesus *far surpassed* the Jewish High Priest.
- B. "Faithful and Merciful High Priest:"
 - 1. Faithful: faithfully perform the functions of the office of High Priest; offer sacrifice of himself, intercede for man, etc.
 - 2. Merciful: compassionate. *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15.*
 - 3. By becoming a man he was able to experience the trials of life so that he could properly perform the functions of the office.
- C. To make reconciliation for the sins of the people.
 - 1. The main purpose of his priesthood -- to atone for sins.

2. To appease, to propitiate man to God, not God to man. "To make *propitiation* for the sins of the people."
- D. Without this High Priest, where would we be?

VI. TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE TEMPTED. Hebrews 2:18

- A. KJV - Succor: help.
- B. He suffered, being tempted. *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15*
 1. He was subjected to both SUFFERING and TEMPTATION. He passed BOTH TESTS.
 2. Satan tempted him three ways. *Matthew 4:1-11.*
- C. Since he knows firsthand about temptation, he is able to help mankind.
- D. "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." *1 Corinthians 10:13.* (He can do this because He has endured it).

CONCLUSION:

- A. "Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?" For all these reasons, but especially:
 1. "Because He Loved Me So."
 2. To do something for me that *I could not do for myself.*
 3. To give me *this opportunity today.*
- B. Did he die in vain on your behalf?
- C. Will you come to him in obedience?

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SURVIVING THE RIVER OF DEATH

Max Lucado, in his book, "Six Hours One Friday," tells the story of a missionary in Brazil who discovered a tribe of Indians in a remote part of the jungle. They lived near a large river. The tribe was in need of medical attention. A contagious disease was ravaging the population. People were dying daily.

A hospital was not too terribly far away — across the river, but the Indians would not cross it because they believed the river was inhabited by evil spirits. And to enter its water would mean certain death.

The missionary explained how he had crossed the river & was unharmed. But they were not impressed. He then took them to the bank & placed his hand in the water. They still wouldn't go in. He walked into the water up to his waist & splashed water on his face. It didn't matter. They were still afraid to enter the river.

Finally, he dove into the river, swam beneath the surface until he emerged on the other side. He raised a triumphant fist into the air. He had entered the water & escaped. It was then that the Indians broke into a cheer & followed him across.

Isn't that what Jesus did? He entered the river of death & came out on the other side so that we might no longer fear death, but find eternal life in Him.

SOURCE: Max Lucado, "Six Hours One Friday."