

Title: Leader of the Band (pt.2)
Text: Hebrews 2.10-18
Theme: What a Savior!
Series: Hebrews #6
Prop Stmtnt: He leads like no other.

Read Text:

For several years I coached kids' soccer. Although the practices helped get them ready, their parents and grandparents would get these little kids so jacked up for the game, that they would be wound up into a frenzy. The whistle would blow and some of them looked like a balloon letting its air out, or better yet, one of those old fashion electronic football games that my generation used to have. To complicate matters, 124 people on the sidelines with College scholarship and Olympic dreams for these kids are all yelling to the kids to "go." To a four-year old on a wide-open field with one ball and a whole bunch of other kids, what does "go" mean? Go where? How far? For how long? Can I have my snack now? One year, coaches were permitted to actually be on the field with the kids. That was an enormous help. I could get right into their face, block out the distractions and say, "follow me." Then, in the middle of the game, I could show them what to do, and then they would get it. Now, keep that in mind for a minute.

Hebrews is reminding us that Christ is vastly superior to everything so that when he speaks, his word/truth is the most important thing that we could ever hear, and when he acts, his work on our behalf is the most profitable and beneficial thing that can ever be done for us. Therefore, hardening our heart to his voice (2.1-4) by permitting any type of bitterness, unbelief or pride to root, or choosing to ignore his voice and continue in disobedience, will bring the direst of consequences upon us. As deep as this warning is (and it is deep) the encouragement to listen to his voice is wondrously high. If we listen, believe and follow, it will result in the most satisfying joy and glory.

To summarize; we are learning that focusing on Christ's pre-eminent excellence drives us, spurs us to press on for Christ in all things, no matter what. So, if you are on a soccer field, this entire book is more than the cheers of thousands on the sidelines encouraging you on attempting to will you on. It's so much more than "go!" This book reveals to us that Christ is right here showing us how to do it. He is the leader, not from a distance, but the coach and captain who is right here. He calls us to follow him, as one of us. We have solidarity with Christ, a union with Christ, identification with Christ, and an eternal bond with Christ that was made possible because he added humanity to his deity and became one of us in order to be our champion, our Redeemer, our Brother, [and] our Leader. All through this text, we see this emphasis upon Christ's incarnation and humbling to our level that he might fully share in our experiences as humans.

Look at the connection in v.9 between the phrase "suffering of death" and the phrase "that ... he might taste death for everyone." The way "suffering" is used in this section, is not with an emphasis upon physical suffering, though that it certainly part of it, but on the experience itself. Over and over the author is stressing how Christ fully experienced

our humanity. At Christmas time, it is pretty common to see pictures of Christ as a baby with a glow on his face or a halo over his head. That did not happen, and even though the artist is attempting to emphasize the deity of Christ, it is often done at the expense of his humanity. We even have a Christmas carol that says, “no crying he makes.” That’s bogus! He cried. He was not born speaking Greek and Aramaic to his mother to inform her that he was hungry or was tired of listening to the little drummer boy. (that was a joke) I have yet to see a Christmas card with Mary changing his diaper. No doubt it was astounding to the angels to see him being taught how to walk or speak, and to learn about the world around him. He probably played games in the street. He may have had acne. He had body odor. He got tired. He faced the fear of failure, the fear of rejection, and the fear of loneliness. It is easier to picture him walking on the water than it is blowing his nose or chewing fish. Oh he was God, the very God, but while he was God, he was also completely human. Therefore, as the God-Man he is a Leader like none other. He is the Leader of our Band and that is why you/we can press on pilgrim. As the Leader of the Band:

1. **He revealed the plan for the children of God.** (5-9)

That plan is for God’s people to rule with him in his kingdom and for God to have everything in subjection under Christ as the representative and leader of the people of God. God’s plan is for us to be restored to what God had made Adam for. We are to rule over God’s creation in the name of and under the authority of God.

Let’s quickly review from last week. (v.6) So, what is man, that you are mindful of him?” He is the crowning aspect of God’s creation, who was made to represent God on the earth like no other part of his creation could. He was made to rule under God’s authority. He was made in order to be crowned with glory and honor and to have everything put in subjection under his feet, but he sinned. He ruined the creation. And by his sin, he ruined the creation so bad, that he could not rescue himself. So God, sent Christ to the earth, who became part of his own creation by taking upon himself a human body and nature. By his life and death Christ did what the 1st man did not do and what no person in the human race could do. He fulfilled God’s plan for humanity. He put on display the purpose for the human race. The Father points to the Son and says – That’s it! That is what I intended for you (the human race).

Now, stop right here for a second. Did your parents ever point out other kids and say, “Why can’t you be like that?” That is so difficult. That can be so demoralizing. “Look at their grades, why can’t you get good grades in school?” “Because they sit still in class and listen. But when I get into my desk, there is something inside of me that just wants to move. They look at the teacher and want to learn, I look at the teacher and want to laugh and I love to make others laugh. It’s just not the same. They read books at recess and I just want to break free and run and run and run. Why can’t I be like them? It’s because I am NOT them. I can’t be them.

Listen carefully. Yes, God sent Christ to the earth so that he could do what we did not do. But, not so that God would then say, “Why can’t you be like your brother?!” and then

walk away and leave us exasperated and angry over this unattainable standard. He knows that we are not like Christ, so he made Christ to be like us, in order that we could then be like Christ! He never compromised his standard. He never changed his plan for us. But what he did is that he sent Christ as the leader of the band. As the Leader of the Band...

2. **He made the way for us to be children of God.** (9-10, 14-18)

The human race was made to be crowned with glory, but the human race sinned. The human race was guilty. The human race was condemned. The human race had caused the problem. The human race had to fix it, but we couldn't fix it. Everything that we have done to fix the problem has only contributed to our guilt and increased our condemnation. How could we fix the problem when we were the problem? The solution had to come from outside of us and be from us, all at the same time.

Now, I am speaking to you as if you have to come to complete faith in Christ for your salvation and that you are trusting in nothing else. If you have come to this point in your life, then this text is a great comfort to you. If you have not, yet, I pray that this text/truth will be used by the Spirit of God to capture your heart in such a compelling way that you say to God – "I want that! That's what I have to have! That's what I am going to bank my soul upon because though it is so amazing, it makes sense!"

(v.14) *"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things"* that is Christ fully entered into our humanity and became just like one of us. Verse 9 says that his *"suffering of death enabled him to taste death for everyone."* Look at that carefully. Let that soak deep into your soul until every portion of your being is moist with this truth. His suffering of death, that is, his experience of dying was done, not only as a human, but as our representative who tasted it, went through it, experienced it fully, in our place. Because he was a man, because he was flesh and blood, because he shared our human nature, he was able to experience life fully, just like us. In fact, verse 10 says that he was *"made perfect through suffering."* That does not mean that he was imperfect and that he suffered in order to be a better person, like some kind of lent-program for Jesus. No, perfect has the idea of completing the experience. (Robert Reymond) *"Since our Lord was morally pure, this perfecting and learning process must not be construed to mean that he learned obedience in the same way Christians do, moving from a state of disobedience to a state of obedience by means of the sanctifying process. Rather, it means that as he moved in perfect obedience to the will of God from one trial to the next throughout his entire lifetime, his will to obey was made ever more and more resolute, even in the face of stiffer and severer trials, in his determination to do his Father's will. This process was necessary to prepare him to face the final ordeal of the cross."* Let me ask you this. Could Jesus have died for our sins at the age of ten? No, because he had not yet experienced all that he had to in order to fully engage in our humanity. Why is it that children generally do not grieve like adults at a funeral? They have not lived long enough to understand what has been lost.

Christ had to go through the experiences of life so that he could enter into the experience of death, fully aware of how deep the rejection was, and how deep the insults were, and

how serious the sin was. All that he experienced and all that he believed even in that experience made him perfect! The experiences of Christ, particularly his suffering, fully prepared him as a priest, that is now as a mature, experienced, representative of his people he was able to complete his mission of redemption.

But there appears to be a problem. The wages of sin is death and Christ was perfect. Therefore he should not die. But he did die. Why? Yes, it was for us. But how could it be so? Just because he perhaps wanted to die in some large-hearted way for us, he was perfect and had no sin and therefore should never die. But, he so fully identified himself with us, that even though Christ himself never sinned, he took upon himself our sin in such a way that he became fully identified with every single one of our sins.

Oh, beloved, this is glorious! This is absolutely glorious! Look at verse 14. “...*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, (there’s more!) and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*” Ok, let’s put this together now. As the Leader of the Band he made the way for us to be the children of God through destroying the devil and delivering the slaves. Now, what was the means by which he destroyed the devil and delivered the slaves? It was “through death.” The death of Christ was so perfect and so complete that it satisfied the wrath of God against our sin. That is what propitiation means. (v.17) When Christ made propitiation for our sins, it means that when he died he absorbed upon himself the wrath of God against our sins, so that when you trust in Christ, there is no wrath left for you. It was all used up on Christ. This is why Christ died! When you look at the cross and you see that Christ died, before you see that he died for your forgiveness, you need to see that he died bearing your damnation. He bore your wrath and took it away, completely and forever! Now, in order to help you appreciate this and grasp this I want you to think of the “worst” sin that you have committed. Or what is it that has done more to blow up your life and affect those around you? What is it that you continually struggle with? (got it?)

With the payment of sin being made in full, with our redemption being paid, Christ blew up the only weapon that Satan has against you. Think with me. What is the weapon that Satan can hold against you or anyone? His name reveals it. He can accuse you of sin. And because we are sinners, his accusation is not only true, but since the wages of sin is death he can hold the threat of death, judgment, and eternal condemnation over our heads. We are captive to his power. Because we cannot stop sinning, his authority over us cannot be broken by us. We are held as slaves in his kingdom and Satan is a tyrant. The human race that was designed to rule sits captive in the prison block of the enemies’ castle where the shackles of the fear of death are almost as strong as the shackles of sin itself. The tyrant of your soul seeks to hold you captive to his intimidation. You can’t leave. You can’t change. You don’t matter. God doesn’t care about you. It doesn’t matter. You are mine. Your sin is too deep. You can’t be forgiven. Death is final. Death is scary. Death is punishment. You are lost – forever. When Satan tempts me to despair, my heart is inclined to cower in fear because long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound by sin and nature’s night. There is a measure of truth to what Satan says. Your sin is deep. You cannot rescue yourself. But, you were not made for this, and God did not let you stay

captive in that kingdom. He sent Christ, who became fully human so that in sharing in our humanity, he could be credited with our sin, so that through his death, he could pay the penalty of sin. When the penalty of sin was paid, when Christ announced to all of creation, "It is Finished!" the law that Satan held in his hand to threaten you and beat you and was blown up, which in turn broke the power of death and the fear of death, thus destroying the weapon of Satan. The death of Christ was not only the death of death, it was the crushing of Satan's authority and the glorious deliverance of all those who trust Christ, the Champion of Salvation. He can't condemn you any more. He can't call you a slave to sin anymore either. As the Leader of the Band

3. **He guarantees the way for his children to complete the plan.** (10)

Verses 6-8 are a quote from Psalm 8 that reminds us of God's intention for the human race. This plan of God for the human race to rule over the world under the authority of Christ was illustrated in the book of Exodus. Moses, as the Christ figure, went into the stronghold of the enemy of God's people, where they were held captive against their will but were powerless to do anything about. Moses was the victorious hero who led this band of slaves right out of Egypt in plain view of their captives whom they spoiled as they headed for the promised land where they would rule as a nation. But something happened along the way. Moses could not finish the job. Moses could not get them into the promised land because Moses, as good as he was, was not able to finish. Now hold that thought for just a second because I am keying in on that phrase, "in bringing many sons to glory." The subject of that phrase is the Father, but the means by which he brings his sons to glory is the work of the Son. So when you put all of this together, you realize that Christ was sent on a mission by the Father so that by means of his perfect life and sacrificial death, stormed the gates of the enemies castle, broke the power of the enemy, bound the enemy, then went into the prisons of sin and called us out by name and then led us right out of there into his kingdom. But this time it would be different. The Hero of our salvation is not like our modern day heroes who in the movies ride off into the sunset and leave you to fend for yourself or in real life are arrested for DWI or for beating their girlfriends. The founder (Champion/Hero) of our salvation did what Moses could not do. Christ finishes the job. He brings his sons to glory. "*For whom and by whom all things exist*" God is the reason for your existence. You live for Him and He is the one by whom all things exist. Since God is the one by whom all things exist, that means that God is the cause of your existence. The One who has caused you to exist is also the cause for your existence. His glory is your reason for being. You bring him glory when you believe in him, trust in him, obey him and worship him. God does not leave anything to chance. God is graciously determined for you to fulfill His destiny for you. That destiny is glory. The Father determined it. The Son purchased it. And the Spirit applied it. The Father caused it. The Son died for it. And the Spirit guarantees it. The Father designed it. The Son completed it. And the Spirit fastens it. The Father called you. The Son redeemed you. And the Spirit keeps you. The Father justified you. The Son pleads for you and the Spirit is bringing you home! Fourthly, as the Leader of the Band...

4. **He is the means by which we all belong.** (10-13, 17-18)

This last point is really the culmination of this entire section. In fact, verses 17 and 18 are both conclusional and introductory. They serve to summarize the 1st section of the book and point us ahead to the 2nd big idea. But, this conclusion is so powerful because it speaks to our deepest needs and fears. One of the affects of sin is a sense of isolation. We are tempted to think that no one understands me. We wonder if we belong anywhere. If you are homeless or jobless, you are tempted to look around and think, I don't belong here, these people all seem to have their act together, and I don't even know what or if I'm going to eat tonight. But just because you have a bedroom and a closet that you can call your own and you have more than one shirt or pair of shoes in it, does not mean that you feel any less disconnected. Underneath your trendy shirt, or smartly tailored jacket is the same heart that wonders if anyone in this room battles with the same insecurities and same sins that you do. For all of us, we are so tempted to hide behind walls of bravado or walls of humor or walls of fine clothing, or anything that will keep people from knowing the real truth about us, because most of us are scared to death about the real truth being known because then you won't like me, or respect me, or want me. In fact, if you knew the truth about me, you would be ashamed about me and perhaps wonder, why can't you be like your brother?

All through these nine verses, the author of Hebrews is certainly demonstrating how Christ is superior to the angels, he is setting us up to reveal his superiority to Moses and preparing us for a glorious discussion on how Christ is such an incredible priest right now. But, he weaves all of this together in such a way that over and over, he highlights this heart-grabbing truth. You belong to Christ. Christ belongs to you. Which means, you and I belong to Christ and Christ belongs to us. Notice this language of identification that is all over this text. Christ is the "son of man" (v.6) and we are the "sons" that he is bringing to glory (v.10). We are called "brothers" (11, 12) and "the children" that God has given to Christ (13). V.14, "He himself likewise partook of the same things" (referring to the fact that we share in the same flesh and blood). V.17, "He had to be made like his brothers in every respect." And like us, he suffered, and like us he was tempted (v.18). So, in closing, I am seeking to take this truth that when you come to faith in Christ that your entire identity changes and that you are so deeply rooted into Christ that you are forever one of his, and I am attempting to screw this truth as deep into your soul as I possibly can.

A. We share in the same source of mission. (11a)

Verse 11 begins with a connecting word "for". The argument that the author is making, I believe goes back to solidarity that is between man and our representative, the "son of man" (v.6), who perfectly obeyed the mission that he was given by the Father which now secured and guarantees that our mission will be successfully completed as well. "*For he who sanctifies (Christ who makes holy) and those who are sanctified (believers who are set apart) all have one source (God).* (ESV footnote – all are of one; NIV – "of the same family") God gave you a mission and God gave his Son a mission. His Son's mission was to guarantee that you would complete your mission and since the Son completed his mission, all of his children will do the same! "*That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying...*"

B. We share in the same family. (11b)

If you are in Christ, he is not ashamed of you. If you are in Christ, you will not deny him and he cannot deny you. No longer do you have to listen to, “why can’t you be like your brother”. You are not only like your brother, your brother is thrilled to call you brother.

C. We worship together. (12)

The picture of v. 12 is astounding. Christ identifies with us so much that not only does he call us brothers he worships the Father with us and in fact, Christ is in the midst of the brothers (the congregation) and he sings the praises of his Father. Imagine Christ singing! The one who loves him more than any of us, who knows him more than any of us, who considers him more wonderful than any of us, perfectly sings in a manner that is an accurate response to the glorious perfections of the Father. If, when he (Christ, in his glorified state, speaks and John says that “his voice was like the roar of many waters” then how many thousands of choirs will it sound like when he sings? And get this. He does this in the midst of the congregation! He does this with us. We get to add our voices to his voice and we won’t ruin the song.

Now, there is something else in this text that you need to know. The author is quoting from Psalm 22. Do you know that Psalm? That Psalm begins with “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” David is saying that he feels like God has abandoned him and the language that David uses is very descriptive and heart-wrenching, but in spite of the fact that he cannot figure out why God has done this to him, he remains convinced that God is going to rescue him. And when God rescues him (and he knows that it will happen) then he will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

Wow! What David experienced in part, Christ experienced in full. While David felt abandoned by God, Christ was truly abandoned by the Father. Even as Christ cried the opening verse of this Psalm from the cross, he knew that this Psalm did not end that way. He, the son of David, the son of God, would out sing David and out declare David in praises because he went through the darkest of nights and did not lose faith, which is why, you and I can go through the darkest of nights and not lose faith, because our dark nights will never be as dark as his were, and since he remained faithful and we are in him we will not only remain faithful because God is faithful, we will sing with him all about it!

Press on Pilgrim!