

Why Jesus is Greater Than the Angels

Hebrews 1:4-14

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. The book of Hebrews... is about the greatness... and the preeminence of Jesus Christ.
- b. The Bible describes the Christian life as a journey... the goal of our journey... the goal of the Christian life...is Christlikeness.
- c. Every day as Christians ... we are to be growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ... we are to be growing in faithfulness to Christ and in our commitment to Him ... we are to growing in holiness... we are to be growing in our love for Christ... and we are to growing in Christlikeness.
- d. To grow in Christlikeness... means to become more like Jesus in our actions and in our attitudes every day.
- e. Spiritual maturity and growing in Christlikeness does not happen automatically ... growing to be “like” Christ requires spiritual discipline, dedication, devotion and commitment.
- f. The spiritually lazy Christian... the apathetic Christian... the lethargic Christian... the carnal Christian... the worldly Christian ... the backsliding Christian... the prayerless Christian... the careless Christian... the shallow and superficial Christian... the uncommitted Christian ... will not be a growing Christian.

II. IMMATURE CHRISTIANITY-

- a. One of the tests for how we are growing and maturing as Christians... is how we handle it when our feelings are hurt and we are offended by something that has been said or done to us by our fellow Christians and church members.

- b. Needlessly offending others should never happen in the church... the Bible says that we should always speak to each other and treat each other with Christian love and grace... even on those occasions when it is necessary to say things that are difficult to each other.
- c. But as good and wonderful as church is... (and there are no better people in the world than church people)... the church in this world is not perfect...and at times...things will be said and done in church that should not happen.
- d. Over the course of my ministry as a Pastor ... the vast majority of the time I have been treated with respect by my fellow church members and Christians... but there have been those times when my feelings have been hurt... and I have been offended... by things that have been said or done to me.
- e. How we react when our feelings are hurt...is a test of our spiritual growth and maturity as Christians.
- f. On those occasions when I have been hurt... my first impulse has been to give as good as I “got”... to return fire for fire... and when necessary I have... and I will defend myself... from what I believe to be unfair criticism and treatment.
- g. But I have learned that getting in a word fight with people who have hurt or offended me... is counterproductive to me... to others ... and to the unity of the church.
- h. Here is what I do when I am offended... I pray over it... and I pray over it ...until I get over it.
- i. I have too many important things to deal with and to do... than to be bogged down in holding a grudge over an offense... I am not a drama king... I am not going to be bogged down in all that drama.
- j. When I am offended... my goal is to never let anyone but the Lord and my wife know it... and that includes the one who offended me.

- k. By the way... God is on my side in this... or more rightly... I am on His side... Proverbs 19:11 says it is a virtue to overlook an offense... Proverbs 19:7 says that love prospers when a fault is forgiven.
- l. Over the course of my ministry... some people have been offended by sermons that I have preached... and to be honest with you ... as the society and culture we are now living in continues to infiltrate the church...that is happening more often.
- m. The church is supposed to be an agent of change for God in the world ... but because of the weak Christianity that is present in much of the church in America today... instead of the church influencing and changing the world ... the world is influencing and changing the church... the attitudes, values, standards, beliefs and ways of the world are infiltrating and taking hold in the church like never before.
- n. When you preach the Word of God as you are supposed to do... sometime you have to call a sin a sin...you have to call something that the Bible says is wrong, wrong ... there are very few gray areas in the Bible... the Bible is pretty clear about what is right and wrong.
- o. Sometimes when you preach what the Bible says people are offended ... they don't want to hear it... they don't like it ... especially if they are doing what you are preaching about.
- p. These days it is not just the people outside the church who want to muzzle preachers... it is many inside the church too... "safe ground."
- q. I have had people leave the churches I have pastored because of something I have preached... and yes... that has happened even here.
- r. It is never my intention to hurt anyone's feelings with what I preach ... when I preach my intention is to rightly divide the Word of God and truth of God ... and to preach what God has laid on my heart with as much love and compassion and grace as I can.

- s. When I stand in this pulpit... I don't stand here as if I am Mr. Perfect ... I am fully aware of my imperfection as a preacher... as a Christian ... and as a human being.
- t. But as imperfect as I am... I have a calling from God... and my calling is to preach the Word of God ... and if one of my sermons... or if any sermon you hear offends you... and that sermon accurately presents the truth of God from the Word of God... then your problem is not with the preacher ... your problem is with God.
- u. I have been called to preach God's Word...not to give you sweet, cute little non-offensive talks...that don't amount to a hill of beans.
- v. While I am on the subject hurt feelings... I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings by saying this... but there are three kinds of people I don't want any of you to be like.
- w. #1, Please don't be one of those people who are a hurt feeling waiting to happen... there are some people...if they don't get offended over this... they will get offended over that... it is inevitable that they are going to be offended by something... the rest of us know who you are ... and we love you... but we don't really want to be around you.
- x. #2, Please don't be like those people who have wrapped themselves in their umbrage and hurt feelings... people who put their hurt feelings on display for all the world to see... and use their hurt feelings as an excuse and justification to attack, criticize and quit the church ... don't be like that.
- y. #3, Please don't be a person who expects the church to fall apart and change everything we do because your feelings have been hurt... our church is not a liberal university... if your feelings get hurt we will not give you a puppy to hold... a coloring book... and provide you a safe room... we will love you... pray with you... and help you work through it.

- z. It is the immature Christian who will not forgive... it is the immature Christian who will get puffed up with pride and try to control and rule over others... it is the immature Christian who will get mad over nothing and try to start a church fight... it is the immature Christian who wants to compromise with the world... who does not want to take a stand for Christ and biblical truth.
- aa. Immature Christianity...has always been a problem in the church... it has always been a threat to a church's mission and ministry.
- bb. This is one reason why the book of Hebrews is so important... it calls on us to fix our eyes on Jesus... to live the strong Christian life and advance toward spiritual maturity as Christians.
- cc. In these verses... the writer of Hebrews wants us to see... how Jesus is greater than the angels... this is important because some people in that day were teaching that Jesus was just another angel.
- dd. In these verses... the writer quotes seven passages from the Old Testament... and applies them to Jesus.
- ee. These verses lay out five reasons why Jesus...is not an angel ... He is greater than the angels... the theme of Hebrews is that Jesus is greater than anything and anyone in the world.
- ff. For us to advance in Christian maturity... we must keep our eyes focused on Jesus.

III. JESUS HAS A GREATER NAME THAN THE ANGELS-

- a. Hebrews 1:4 says of Jesus... *“So he became superior to the angels, just as the name he inherited is more excellent than theirs.”*
- b. Three angels are given names in the Bible... one angel is named Michael which means “who is like God.”
- c. The second angel named in the Bible is Gabriel... and his name means “God is great.”

- d. The third angel named in the Bible... is Lucifer...the fallen angel we looked at last week... Lucifer means “morning star.”
- e. It is probable that God gave names to all of the angels... but no angel has a greater name than Jesus.
- f. The name Jesus means “God saves” ... and that name is the greatest name there is... because it is the name of our Lord and Savior.
- g. Why is Jesus the greatest name?... because there is power in that name ... there is healing in that name... there is joy in that name... there is comfort in that name... there is wonder in that name... there is peace in that name... there is forgiveness in that name... there is deliverance in that name... but most importantly... there is salvation in that name.
- h. *Acts 4:12 (NKJV) “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*
- i. Some years ago... Gloria Gaither wrote these words... “Jesus... The mere mention of His name can calm the storm, heal the broken, raise the dead... At the name of Jesus, I’ve seen sin hardened men melted, and derelicts transformed... at the name of Jesus I have seen the lights of hope put in the eyes of a hopeless child... At the name of Jesus, I have seen hatred and bitterness turn to love and forgiveness, and arguments cease... I've heard a mother softly breathe His name at the bedside of a child delirious from fever, and watched... as that little body grew quiet, and fevered brow cooled... I've sat the side of a dying saint. Her body wracked with pain, who in those final fleeting seconds summoned her last ounce of ebbing strength, just to whisper Earth's sweetest name...Jesus...Jesus... Emperors have tried to destroy it... Philosophies have tried to stamp it out... Tyrants have tried to wash it from the face of the Earth with the very blood of those who claimed it... Yet it still stands... And there shall be that final day when every voice that has ever uttered a sound, every voice of

Adam's race, shall raise in one mighty chorus to proclaim the name of Jesus... For in that day, every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess, that Jesus Christ is truly Lord... You see, it was not by mere chance that caused the angel one night, long ago to say to a virgin maiden... His name, His name shall be called... Jesus... Jesus.... Jesus.... You know, there is something, something about that name.”

IV. JESUS IS GOD’S SON; ANGELS ARE GOD’S SERVANTS-

- a. *Hebrews 1:5, 7* “For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again to which of the angels did He ever say: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?”
- b. The answer to the questions the writer of Hebrews asks in these verses is zero... God has never called an angel His Son.
- c. Jesus is greater than the angels because Jesus is God’s Son... Jesus is God... He is the One who created the angels... and they serve Him.

V. JESUS IS WORSHIPPED; ANGELS WORSHIP HIM-

- a. *Hebrews 1:6 (NKJV)* “But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”
- b. Jesus is greater than the angels... because the angels worship Him.
- c. I love a good worship service... good music... good singing ... good preaching... the Spirit of God stirring hearts... Christians praising God and getting right with Him ... lost people being saved... I will take a good worship service over the Super Bowl any day.
- d. What must the worship of angels be like?... *Revelation 5:11-12 (NLT2)* “Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. And they sang in a mighty chorus: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.”

e. As the angels worship God... so should we.

VI. JESUS WILL RULE FOREVER; ANGELS ARE HIS SUBJECTS-

- a. *Hebrews 1:7-9* “Regarding the angels, he says, “He sends his angels like the winds, his servants like flames of fire.” But to the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.”
- b. In these verses... God the Father... calls the angels servants... messengers... He calls them His heavenly companions.
- c. But in this passage God the Father calls Jesus God... He says that Jesus the Son... is the King... He is the One who now rules ... and the One who will rule forever... over this earth... and the eternal kingdom to come.
- d. Angels are great... but Jesus is greater... Jesus is the good and righteous Ruler of His creation... and the angels and mankind.
- e. When a person says no to Christ... they are saying no to the Creator and King of the universe... they are saying no to their Creator and their King.

VII. JESUS IS THE CREATOR; ANGELS WERE CREATED-

- a. *Hebrews 1:10-13* “He also says to the Son, “In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. They will perish, but you remain forever. They will wear out like old clothing. You will fold them up like a cloak and discard them like old clothing. But you are always the same; you will live forever.” And God never said to any of the angels, “Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet.”

- b. One day the One who created the universe... will destroy the heavens and earth that He created... the world in which we now live ... and He will create a new heavens and a new earth.
- c. One day Jesus will fold up the heavens and the earth that we now live in...and He will toss it aside... like we toss aside an old shirt too worn and tattered to wear anymore.
- d. And then Jesus will create a New Heaven and a New Earth... which will be the eternal home of the angels and those who trust in Him.
- e. And over that creation... Jesus will reign forever and ever.

VIII. CONCLUSION-

- a. Jesus is greater than the angels... Jesus is greater than anyone... He is greater than anything.
- b. It is this Jesus... the King who gave His life for you... rest assured ...your eternal destiny depends on what you do with Jesus.
- c. If your feelings have been hurt in church ... I'm sorry... if I did the offending... I am double sorry.
- d. Needlessly offending others is wrong... and if you are guilty of doing that then you need to ask God... and you need to ask the one you have offended...for forgiveness.
- e. But your faith has got to be stronger than your feelings... I hope and pray that you never get offend in church ... that you never get your feelings hurt.
- f. But if being offended and getting your feelings hurt will stop your worship, service, your love for Christ, your faithfulness to His church and His work in its tracks... then your faith is not worth two cents... what good are you to the kingdom of God?

- g. If your hurt feelings are greater than your faith... then I would suggest that you examine yourself... because you may not have a true faith at all.
- h. At times in life you have to take your licks... even in church... when that happens pray it out ... pray it through... and keep on ticking... the church needs you... and you need to grow and advance in the Christian life... and be a fruitful and productive Christian.
- i. You may need to repent today... If you are clutching something or someone more than Jesus, let go of it... Turn from your sin and turn to Him.
- j. You may need to be saved this morning—receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior... Come in a moment as we sing, you come... Make your way up front here... I'll be standing here to help you and pray with you.
- k. Or maybe you have other spiritual questions or you want to know more about the church... you can come during this time and I'll meet with you here.
- l. This is our time to respond in song... You can right where you are repent, worship, trust Christ, love Christ!
- m. Let's pray. "Jesus, we believe you are much better than the angels. And in our hearts we know you are much better than anything or anyone else. But the things we believe to be true are often hard to believe. Hard to live. Help us, Jesus. Cultivate in us a greater desire for you, that we would love and cherish you more than anything this world affords. In Your name we pray, amen."