

# Christ's Superior Solidarity

## Hebrews 2:10-13

One of the scariest things that I have ever done was our end of semester Juries for the music school that my wife and I were in for our undergraduate...capstone performance each semester...alone being judged by the best musicians in the world...except the TA that was allowed to be with me, supporting me, defending me sometimes...

This reminds me of the description of the Writer of Hebrews has for Jesus as we turn to the next part of chapter 2: the Supreme Solidarity of Christ.

Writer now turns his attention to expanding upon the greatness of the Incarnation of God's Son in Jesus Christ. There are three ways between this week and next in which the Writer focuses on the necessity and glory of the Incarnation: Jesus as our Forerunner, Jesus in Fraternity, Jesus as Freedom giver.

**Big Idea: Christ's solidarity with His people is the most liberating, comforting, strengthening, and glorious aspect of His ministry in our lives.**

## Hebrews 2:10-13

*For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying,*

*"I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."*

*And again,*

*"I will put my trust in him."*

*And again,*

*"Behold, I and the children God has given me."*

## I. Forerunner

Writer seeks to comfort the readers about the great character of God in sending His Son to suffer for the sake of His people. This is not incongruent at all with the Almighty, Sovereign, Holy God, as some might have feared. But actually, this is exactly in line with the sovereign nature of God, to send His Son to suffer so that we might live. The word that the Writer uses to describe this aspect of Christ's ministry is "founder", though a better word would be 'pioneer, or forerunner". The idea that Jesus has gone

ahead of us, breaking the way ahead smooth so that we might be able to follow Him where He leads, which is to salvation and to glory.

### **God-sized salvation from beginning to end.**

It is perhaps a natural pivot to make after discussing how Jesus, who is God's Son, the Creator, Inheritor, Sustainer, Redeemer, Purifier of His people, would taste death for all of His people. There might be some question about whether or not this is appropriate for this kind of God to do, so the Writer makes it abundantly clear that not only is it appropriate, but is exactly in line with His character to do!

*“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” – Luke 24:26*

The size of the problem required a God-sized solution. The offense of sin, which mankind has been under since Adam and Eve, was so great that only God could deal with it. In sending His Son, He shows us the sovereign nature of His plan. It was not an accident that sin entered the world, it was allowed so that God's glory as Redeemer, Merciful, Gracious, Compassionate, Loving character could be put on full display for all to see! Plus, His glory as Holy, Justice, Powerful, and Righteous could be on full display for all to see. Though sin is horrible, God took that horror and made something grand and glorious for all to see.

*“What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory?” – Romans 9:22-23*

He created with just a Word, but in salvation, the Word became flesh and labored to secure it. Redemption is superior to Creation because of the labor which God in Christ exercised in securing it for us.

Thus, suffering and salvation is not incompatible with His character, but is actually the crowning jewel of His character!

### **Suffering makes complete.**

The word for “perfect” in this verse, is actually the word for “complete”. Not that Jesus was lacking anything in His perfection as the God/Man, but His role as the Forerunner, or Captain, of His people was completed through His sufferings. The Writer doesn't say exactly what sufferings he means here, but it doesn't take much to know that the true human experience has many kinds of suffering, and Jesus experienced them all. Basically, if Jesus had not had any sufferings, then His role as our forerunner would not have been complete, as He would not know what it was to be truly human. Suffering does not mean that Jesus sinned. Sin is not the punishment for suffering, as Job's friends so falsely asserted. Suffering is a result of sin, surely, but to suffer does not mean you have sinned. We have all experienced suffering that did not come from any fault of our own, but through the sin of others. What we do in our suffering is where we show where our hearts truly are at with God. Either we

will turn to the Lord for help and comfort during suffering, or we will become upset about it, trying to get rid of the suffering, rather than see this as an opportunity to trust God in a deeper way.

Jesus's suffering means that there is great purpose to suffering. It is not meaningless or trivial, but supremely important for God to form and shape us as His people in the world.

### **Suffering is an invitation for deeper trust and relationship.**

#### **Suffering brings glory.**

No pain no gain!

#### **Brings glory to God the Father.**

Jesus' betrayal was a terrible suffering. To be betrayed by a close friend is heart wrenching! Some of us have experienced that kind of suffering and it is comforting to know that Jesus has experienced it too, and is able to bring comfort in this trial

*When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. – **John 13:31-32***

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you. – **John 16:33-17:1***

#### **Brings many of us into the glory of the Son.**

In LD we are reading the book Reason for God in which Tim Keller speaks about forgiveness being a kind of suffering, even death. He defines forgiveness this way:

Forgiveness means refusing to make them pay for what they did. However, to refrain from lashing out at someone when you want to do so with all your being is agony...you are absorbing the debt, taking the cost of it completely on yourself instead of taking it out of the other person. It hurts terribly. Many people would say it feels like a kind of death. – **Tim Keller**

This is what God in Christ does in forgiving us our sins. Instead of taking out His wrath on us, He does so on the perfect substitute and representative, Jesus Christ. This is yet another way in which Christ, as our Big Brother, has solidarity with us, for He takes our place, bearing the punishment for our sin, so that we might be free to enter His glory as adopted sons and daughters!

Jesus is the forerunner of our salvation, making the way clear for us to follow after.

Are you living a life worthy of our Forerunner and Great Captain of our salvation? Are you living your life for the glory of God the Father? Are you seeing suffering as an invitation for deeper trust and relationship? Are you forgiving others the way that God in Christ has forgiven you?

## II. Fraternity

The next aspect of Christ's solidarity with us is that He relates to us as His brother! He is not ashamed to call us His little brothers and sisters. This is probably one of the most beautiful declarations of Christ's solidarity with us, that He proudly calls us His siblings. We, who are wretched, poor, blind, sinful, prideful, and selfish, He is proud to call us His brothers and sisters.

Being the oldest of six siblings, I acutely understand the power that being called one's brother or sister has...collective honor or shame...we share in Christ, we are united to Him, we are one with Him...

### One in Nature

Was fully human. Experienced all that we do, lived as the most ideal human life, as well as suffered all that we suffer.

First OT quotation comes from Psalm 22, which is a Psalm which Jesus actually quotes as being about Himself while He is hanging on the cross!

*And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" – Mark 15:34*

Psalm 22 describes a man who experiences much suffering coming from those he should have experienced love and companionship. It prophetically describes what Jesus would experience while on the cross

*For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet– I can count all my bones– they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. – Psalm 22:16-18*

Yet throughout the Psalm the speaker continues to put their trust in God for deliverance and salvation, with the turn in the Psalm being the verse that is now being quoted in Hebrews 2. The fruit and reward of the suffering Messiah would be the uniting of His siblings with Him singing praise to God in the midst of the congregation!

### One in Representation

The next two OT quotes are from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 8. Isaiah is describing the difference between those who are the hardened of Israel who reject God, and the true faithful remnant whom God keep for Himself. Isaiah's life was a living representation of this faithful remnant who are the true children of God in Israel:

**Isaiah:** Yahweh is salvation

**First Son:** Maher-shalal-hash-baz: indicates God's speedy removal of the enemies of His people

## **Second Son:** Shear-jashub: a remnant shall return

When we put these three together we see the whole arc of the gospel being represented: God Himself is the salvation of His people, through the speedy removal of their enemies and preserving them through the trials until they are united with Him after death.

All of this was accomplished through our representative, Jesus, whose name means “He will save His people from their sins”, or “Yahweh is Salvation”! Rightly did the Writer of Hebrews understand the Representative nature of Christ for His people. And, like we mentioned last week, this is good, because just as one man’s failure brought death to all, so one man’s obedience brought justification for many.

Whatever Jesus did in the past, He did for us, for we are “all from one”. If He kept the Law, we kept the Law in Him. If He died, we reckon that we died in Him. We live because He lives now.

## **One in Interests**

His concerns are our concerns. His goals, now our goals. His desire to bring glory to His Father is now to be our desire. Growing His kingdom is to be our work now as well.

Younger siblings love to do what their older siblings do. It is a fact of life! It is so fun to watch the older treat the younger with compassion and kindness.

Azure is such a better older brother than I ever was! He and Malakai are like two little peas in a pod running around getting into trouble together. Azure just loves Malakai, sometimes too much! He will literally run and tackle Malakai yelling “I love you!” And gives him kisses. Then they go play games together. Me? I just told my brothers what to do; I bossed them around all the time and they did not like it...

Jesus is our Older Brother whom we look to and seek to imitate. Want to live the best kind of life? Look at our Older Brother Jesus to see how He loved people. How He loved and trusted the Father. How He spoke God’s Word. How He lived a life of prayer and dependence on the Father. How He served anyone and everyone around Him. How He cultivated rich relationships with people who went on to continue His work. How He suffers and died for His friends and siblings. This is the kind of Brother we want and need in our lives. One like that!

Jesus teaches that all of us are children of one of two fathers: God or the devil.

“I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father— even God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a

murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

– **John 8:38-47**

The Jews put much stock in their paternal lineage to Abraham, who was credited as righteous before God because of his faith. Jesus here is saying that it does not matter what your earthly lineage is, you are not counted righteous before God because of that. It matter where your heart and faith lie, which determines whose you ultimately are. Jesus here declares that anyone who hears the words of Jesus and believes in Him are showing that they are of the family line of Christ, who unashamedly calls them brother!

Children will always live out the values of the family. Where is your hope? Where is your ultimate security? Who are you seeking to live your life for? Where do you turn to for help in sin?

Is God your Father? Do you hear His words and response in faith? Do you call Jesus Brother today? Jesus is the perfect older brother who loves and cares for His little siblings with tenderness, grace, compassion, and solidarity. He is not ashamed of our sin, or brokenness, or weakness, but instead He helps us in our weakness. He cleanses us of our sin. He heals our broken hearts and minds so that we might live free and with glory.

## **Closing Prayer**

O Holy Father, You have freely given Your Son; O Divine Son, You have freely paid our debt; O Eternal Spirit, You have freely bid us come; O Triune God, You have freely given us salvation; What did you see in us, that we poor, diseased, despised sinners should be clothed in Your bright glory? That we, groaning, weeping, dying, should be as full of joy as our hearts can hold? Who can fathom immeasurable love? As far as the rational soul exceeds the senses, so does the spirit exceed the rational in it's knowledge of You. We marvel that the finite can know the infinite, here a little, but afterwards in fullness of truth. Now we know but a small portion of what we shall now, here in part, there in perfection, here a glimpse, there a glory. To enjoy You is life eternal, and to enjoy is to know. Keep us in the freedom of experiencing Your salvation continually. Amen.