

The Heart of God at Christmas: Family

Steve mentioned on Sunday that in a healthy family the members are for each other in a comprehensive way. They look out for each other. They help each other. They want the others in the family to thrive. The passage we are looking at today communicates that the idea of **family** was on the heart of God at Christmas. This passage communicates that Jesus, as our older brother, is very much for us. And here's the thing, if we can lock in on the reality that Jesus became one of us so that he could be our older brother, we will be more inclined to receive the help he offers us both for eternity and in everyday life. And so, let's take a look!

Opening Discussion: What comes into your mind when you think of the word, "family"?

Read Hebrews 2:9-13

1. How do you see the language of "family" in this passage?

Read Hebrews 2:14-18

2. What phrases and terms does the writer of Hebrews use to describe the extent to which Jesus shares our humanity?
3. What does the writer of Hebrews say that Jesus, in his humanity, has done for his family?
4. Verse 17 says that Jesus in being made like his brothers in all things became a high priest to make propitiation for the sins of the people. What does it mean that Jesus made propitiation for our sins?

5. Do you regularly live as if God IS satisfied concerning your sins? Explain.

Steve said:

Because he suffered when tempted without sinning, he is uniquely qualified to help us when we're being tempted. Anybody who sins the way you do can empathize with you and your sin; but they can't really help you. Jesus is our brother who has **successfully** negotiated every temptation we face. And he is willing to help us learn to do the same. . . . And so the question on the table is **whether or not we are going to let Jesus**, our older brother and high priest, give us the help we need. Are we going to go to God through him in prayer asking for grace? And are we going to go to the Scriptures and let his words abide in us? Or are we going to tell him, "Thanks but no thanks. I don't need or want your help"?

6. Is it the posture of your heart to consistently and regularly go to Jesus for help as you seek to deal with temptation?

7. What might it look like to go to Jesus, your older brother, more consistently for help in this life?