

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Why did Jesus have to suffer and die to receive glory and honor? How did this work out for Jesus?

2. In light of how Jesus defeated his enemies, what are the weapons we should be using to fight? Consider discussing these with a brother or sister.

3. In what ways have you been slipping into the world's understanding of our human identity? How has this affected your attitude? How has this affected your prayer life?

4. How do our weaknesses actually help us? Are you surprised when you are weak? Are you surprised when you suffer? What is the Lord trying to teach you?

5. Do you see yourself getting tempted with self-reliance? Consider discussing this with a brother or sister and praying together for God's help rooting this out.

6. What steps can you take this week to meditate on the truth that our risen Lord is with us right now?



Sunday, July 26, 2020
Perfect through Suffering
 Hebrews 2:5-10

What does it Mean to be Human?

- "Be true to yourself..."

What is Man? (Adam, David & Angels)

Psalm 8:1–9 ...A PSALM OF DAVID.

- ¹ O LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 You have set your glory above the heavens.
 - ² Out of the mouth of babies and infants, (Matt. 21:16; [Matt. 11:25; 1 Cor. 1:27])
 you have established strength because of your foes,
 to still the enemy and the avenger.
 - ³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
 - ⁴ **what is man that you are mindful of him,**
 and the *son of man* that **you care for him?**
 - ⁵ Yet you have made him **a little (briefly) lower than the heavenly beings**
 and crowned him with **glory and honor.** (Cf. Psalm 21, esp. v. 5)
 - ⁶ You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
 you have put all things under his feet, (Adam & cherubim – Gen. 3:22–24)
 - ⁷ all sheep and oxen,
 and also the beasts of the field,
 - ⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
 whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
 - ⁹ O LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
- I. God Uses Small Weak Voices to Shame His Enemies
 - II. Humanity is Small & Weak (Faith required from the beginning)
 - III. God's Glory Mediated through Angels... Briefly
 - IV. Yet We are Given Authority to Rule All Creation

God Defines Our Identity
 (We don't define our identity by our passions)

- I. How Important is it for You to See God's Glory?
- II. How Important is it to you, to Display God's Glory?

Do We See that Jesus is the Perfect Man?

I. Is Everything Under Jesus' Feet? (All ready, not yet)

you **have** crowned **him** (Jesus v. 9) with glory and honor,
⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet." (Ps. 110:1; 1:14)

Now in putting everything in subjection to **him**, **he** (God) left nothing outside his control. *At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.*

II. Suffering & Death is the Path to Perfection & Glory

⁹ **But we see him** who for a little while was made lower than the angels, **namely Jesus**, crowned with glory and honor **because of the suffering of death**, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ **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.

Jesus defines perfect humanity.

I. Jesus Conquered by Obediently Dying with Faith (Phil. 2)

II. Jesus has been Vindicated!

III. Looking to Jesus to Understand Our True Identity:

A. Our weakness is not a problem

1 John 5:3–5

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God *overcomes the world*. And this is the victory that has *overcome the world—our faith.*

B. Understanding the place of Suffering & Death

(The godless have no tools for Suffering & Death)

1 Peter 4:12–19

¹² Beloved, *do not be surprised at the fiery trial* when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you **share Christ's sufferings**, that you may also rejoice and be glad *when his glory is revealed.* ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ *Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed*, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ **For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God**; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the

ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹ Therefore **let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.**

C. Let Us Confess Our Self-Reliance:

1. Have you considered that much of our discouragement stems from our prideful self-reliance?
2. Have you considered that much of our prayerlessness stems from our prideful self-reliance?
3. ...and unbelief? Do we see the exalted Jesus?

D. Jesus is bringing Us to Glory! (It is worth temporary suffering)