



## **Hebrews 2:5-18 – *What if God were one of us?***

### **If God Was One of Us - Joan Osbourne**

If God had a name, what would it be  
 And would you call it to his face  
 If you were faced with him in all his glory  
 What would you ask if you had just one question  
 And yeah yeah God is great yeah yeah God is good  
 yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah  
 What if God was one of us  
 Just a slob like one of us  
 He has become one of us in His Son.

To the Christians who are drifting from Jesus. Who are growing weary. He has said God has spoken through His son. God rules through His son and so he is greater than angels. But he is not out of reach. Out of touch. Aloof. God became one of his in his son.

### **1. What man is meant to be but isn't**

Man was created to rule over creation and so have a special position in God's creation.

#### **Read: 5-8**

This is another case of an Old Testament passage with a double meaning. It is speaking about humanity firstly. The purpose of God for us humans was for us to have a magnificent position of ruling under God and over the creation he has made. In 2:6-8 he quotes Psalm 8 about how man is crowned with glory and honor and has all things in subjection under his feet. This is reminding the readers about the truth of Genesis 1 that man was made to rule over creation.

But he is not naive. He knows that this great destiny appointed for man is not now a reality. So he says at the end of verse 8 this rule is not universal now. Man's rule does not match up with the position God have him at creation. Instead man seems incapable of ruling and keeping things in control. Instead of gloriously ruling over creation, man suffers and dies. Psalm 8 has a fulfillment that is not yet seen.

We may be able to get to the moon and wipe out polio and split the atom, but we cannot stop aging and death.

### **BUT...**

### **2. Jesus became a man and is crowned with glory and honour.**

#### **Read: 9**

Here is the second meaning. What then is the answer to our hopeless subjection to death? How are we going to attain the destiny that Psalm 8 holds out to us? The answer the writer gives is that Jesus Christ came into the world as a human being so that he could be the pioneer of a new humanity. He came as a man and became lower than angels in his death but then was exalted in his resurrection. This is what he says in verse 9.

We don't see all things yet subject to man, but what do we see now?

We see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. In other words, even though you and I do not yet have the glory and honor promised in Psalm 8 because we suffer and die, nevertheless Jesus has come into the world as a human being and has broken through the futility and death and risen into glory and honor.

When we see Jesus we see everything differently.

What is causing you to feel hopeless? What is causing you grief?

What is causing you anxiety?

So you grumble, you say this frustrating; you are in despair; what is the point; I'm giving up; you feel overwhelmed.

Is it: - Your work; your work mates; your boss; you wife; husband; yourself; your sickness; your sin; your kids.

Do you see Jesus? See everything as subject to him.

### **3. Jesus became a man so we could become what we were meant to be.**

#### **Read: 2:10**

He Is Bringing Many Sons to Glory. Making us His brothers. How? Making Jesus *perfect* through suffering. We know what it can't mean.

It can't mean Jesus was lacking something morally or as God. He is holy. He can't become more like God or better. He can't make something more perfect.

The idea of Perfect is the end or goal. Certain things had to be fulfilled. Jesus had become a man – live – suffer and died to be Saviour. Jesus would get to the intended goal by suffering. By dying on the cross. It qualifies him to bring us to glory.

What glory is he talking about? It's the same glory promised in Psalm 8 The glory we have fallen from in our sin and rebellion against God.

So that he calls us brothers.

#### **Read: verses 11-12**

When I think of what I am – I know there is so much to be ashamed of. My distracted heart, quick to judge, slow to be thankful, impatience.

AND YOU. The Bible says you are the same.

And those around you. Do you see them as a brother or a sister with a family bond that cannot be broken by you? It is eternal. I am a brother or sister to another person through what Jesus did for me and this cannot not be broken by what another does to me.

Our community with one another exists only by what Jesus has done for both of us.

This means our attitude to church life is not of demanders or complainers because of things you don't like about church. We are to be thankful receivers. We don't look at each other and see what we should be or could be but who we are together and as brothers and sisters in Christ.

*God's son became man to make us what we were created to be!*

#### **HOW?**

##### **a. Jesus: the pioneer of humanity**

#### **Read: V.10**

Jesus is the author or pioneer for us. He blazes the way. To do this he has suffered and died. So he is our pioneer. He becomes a human being. He suffers and he dies in our place; He rises from the dead victorious, and he enters into glory.

Why? So that he might "lead many sons to glory."

Our great salvation is that we are destined for glory through the incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection and glorification of Jesus Christ our pioneer. He "tasted death for us" so that he could "lead us to glory."

He has been crowned with glory and honor (2:9); and that is where he is leading us. So this is a great salvation because the pioneer is great and because the goal is great. The pioneer is the Son of God and the goal is glory of God.

### **b. Jesus: The Liberator of humanity**

#### **Read: vv. 14-15**

Jesus shared fully in our humanity so he might destroy the devil. And destroy death itself. Death is in the devil's realm. Jesus has brought an end to the power of death by his death and resurrection. What comes with this is the end of fear that we are captive to.

He is still very much alive. He will still wage war against us.

He will try to sell us lies – we hear them every day...- Live for now - God doesn't understand - Just do it once. The devil can make disobedience to God look so attractive – and if we're not on our guard his lies will suck us in. He will also accuse us – undermine our confidence. But be sure of this, if you trust in Jesus he has no ultimate power over you. Your future is secure. You are destined for glory and the devil can't take that away from you.

### **c. Jesus: the Priest of humanity**

#### **vv.17-18**

The whole idea of the priest comes from the OT sacrificial system. The priest was a man chosen from amongst his people. He was a mediator. He would stand between God and the people and offer sacrifices for the sins of the people. Jesus became man in order to become the perfect high priest – the perfect mediator between God and man.

In v. 17 it speaks of him...Making atonement for the sins of the people. The actual word is Propitiation and means to turn aside God's wrath. You see the problem with sin is that it is personal. It is a personal offence to God. Sin is not just doing bad things – it is rebellion against God! And it brings anger and condemnation from God. Jesus comes as the perfect sinless priest, and offers the perfect sacrifice to God. He offers himself – in his death on the cross.

The type of rescue someone needs defines the type of rescuer they need. No point sending in a man in his speedos into a burning house. Ridiculous for a fireman to with all his gear on to race into the water to rescue someone drowning.

Jesus is the perfect rescuer for us.

This is a *great salvation because* the destiny we are saved for is great: we will one day break free from cancer and paralysis and arthritis and blindness and depression and corruption and futility and inherit the glory of the risen Son of God.