

JESUS IS BETTER THAN ANGELS BY VIRTUE OF HIS IDENTITY AS GOD’S SON. HE IS IN A CATEGORY ALL HIS OWN.

RECAP

Start by asking your Home Group to share any further reflections on the sermon.

What stood out to you?

Did you learn anything new that you didn’t know before? Do you have any questions?

IDEA 1

In Hebrews chapter 1:4-14 the author builds an argument for why Jesus is better than angels and for how Jesus sits in a place of high honor that only he and God hold. While this doesn’t feel like an argument that is relevant to us today, for the original audience, recent converts from Judaism, angels played a major role in their faith and would have been considered top of the spiritual ladder. Verse 4 declares, “So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.” That Jesus is greater than because of who he is: God’s son. Being God’s son, Jesus has made a way for us to be adopted into the family of God and to also enjoy a position of favor in God’s family (Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1).

Why do you think its needed to be reminded that Jesus is better than angels?

What is the significance of Jesus as God’s “Son?”

Have you ever felt the need to earn God’s love/favor? How might Galatians 3:26 speak into that?

IDEA 2

To defend this statement that Jesus is greater than angels, the author cites numerous Psalms and OT passages to prove the point. In verse 5, he cites Psalm 2 & 2 Samuel 7:1, two passages about the coming king/messiah. Pointing out that Jesus is the one who defeats ALL of God’s enemies for good. Something angels never did. He also quotes Psalm 110 at the end of the chapter because it was a well-known and popular passage that provides comfort to the believer. In the middle he quotes Psalms 45- A wedding psalm/love song, and 102 which is a lament psalm. All of this was to

encourage a people struggling to hang on to faith that one day, Jesus will establish an everlasting kingdom, and in the meantime they can cry out to God in lament, and they can hold to the hope of being united to Christ.

How is Lamentation in Psalm 102 is helpful in this conversation?

How is remembering the hope of the future in Psalm 45 helpful in this conversation?

How would you encourage someone who is struggling to hang on to faith today?

IDEA 3

Hebrews chapter 1 really emphasizes Jesus' eternal nature and angels' created nature. This is again all for the purpose of reminding the reader, and us, that Jesus is in a category all his own. And while we might not be tempted to worship or idolize angels to the same extent that the original audience did, we do still have many idols today. There are many created things that we give the love, attention and worship we should only give to God. Because the point is to show how much greater Christ is, we could substitute any of our idols for "angels" in this passage and be reminded that Jesus is greater.

What might some common idols today be?

Why are those idols so tempting to turn to?

When does appreciating of a good thing turn into idolatry?

How can we keep things in their proper place with Jesus at the top?

APPLICATION

Reflect on Hebrews chapter 2. How might God be leading you to live like Jesus is greater than angels?

Share your application with the group. Commit to checking in with one another during the week about this process.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Take some time to pray for each other.

Take some time to listen first. Ask Spirit to share his heart for these requests. You may want to use a timer and set it for five minutes of quiet listening.

Open up the time for people to pray the things out loud that Spirit has prompted.