

# Jesus Destroys and Delivers

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Hebrews 2:10-18

If you have your Bibles go to Hebrews chapter two. In the song that we just sang there is a line that says, "do you feel the world is broken?" Then the answer is, "we do." I feel like for most of us walking through this last week we have that sense even as we come in here that the world is broken. As most of you know it was the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. I was an 18 year old young man when 9/11 happened and I can still vividly remember seeing planes going into the World Trade Center as they fell down and just seeing very vividly pure evil. Watching that and processing that as an 18 year old young man made me think... *what in the world is wrong?...*

Then, this week the things we've processed. We saw a 23 year old young woman on a subway get stabbed to death and we saw the people around her just watch it happen. This went viral. We all either heard about it, saw it, or thought... *man, how does that happen?...* It is just evil.

Then we saw Charlie Kirk, a guy who goes around to college campuses, sets up booths, and enters into dialogue with people who try to come and challenge his views. Now, I'm not trying to say that we can agree with every view that he has but he is just a guy debating on a college campus and he gets shot in broad daylight in front of 2,000+ people. Most of us know about this because we saw it. We saw the actual video. I was processing it as my son was coming home from youth group and I just remember what I saw during 9/11 so it was like... *Hey, man, did you hear?... Yeah, I saw it...* I had to process this with a 16 year old kid. What does that even look like? How do you process that when you've seen pure evil. Here was a guy who was articulating the gospel in a lot of ways, lifting Christ up, and trying to interact with people on a college campus and he just gets shot. Last week a chapel of Catholic school kids were gunned down. It's a hard thing to process, right? Do we feel the world is broken? What do we all say to that? WE DO! We feel it! What in the world is wrong? What has happened?

If you asked this little Hebrew church that we are reading about if they feel the world is broken, do you know what they'd say? Absolutely. They're under Nero's rule. People are getting burned at the stake for being Christians. They feel it. They're getting thrown into the gladiator games and they're getting ripped apart. They feel the world is broken.

Violence, suffering, and death are all around us. We're afraid of death. We're afraid of some of these things. What do we do with it? As Christians, what is the problem? What has happened? We know the short answer. The problem is sin. We also know the short answer to the solution. The solution is a Savior, right? Jesus is our hope. Jesus is our answer and what we're going to see is that Hebrews chapter two is all about what we've been witnessing because there is death and suffering but Jesus came to suffer and die so that he would destroy the works of the devil and he would deliver us who are slaves to our sin. That is what we're going to talk about, Jesus delivers and also destroys and that is our title for today.

We are going to read together starting in verse 14 and we will jump back up to verse 10, but we are going to start here. This is going to be the main crux of our text and you're going to see how it's going to fit an answer to a lot of the things we've been dealing with.

### **Scripture:**

**Hebrews 2:14-18 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.**

So, to summarize Hebrews chapter two I think we are going to see this-our hope in suffering and death is Jesus who suffered and died so that we

might live fearlessly. All of us are a little afraid of death, right? This week some of us have probably thought it could be anywhere and at any time. It could be on a subway or a college campus. Death could be anywhere and we have a little bit of fear of that. So how do we get over that fear of death? How do we truly lean into the gospel? We look to Jesus who is our hope in suffering and in death because he did both of those things. He suffered and died so that he could destroy the works of the devil and so that he could free you from slavery so you can live free and fearless before God.

That is what we want to do and that is what we want to get to. So what we are going to do is look back up in verse 10. The first thing the preacher is going to tell us is that Jesus is the founder of a great salvation. That is good for us because guess what? Death is real and we have a Savior who saves us from death. His name is Jesus. Notice what we see in verse 10. I love this. Verse 10 says this, "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."

He's saying, God, who made the whole world and the cosmos, everything is from him and for him and by the way, you're from him and for him as well. That is a good thing for you to know. It's good for you to know that you're from God and for God and your whole life should be used for the glory of God.

So if God who created all the cosmos, if he brought us to glory through the suffering of his Son, that needs explaining. Why did God's Son have to suffer? The preacher is saying that is actually fitting that that God made him perfect through suffering. It's fitting. It makes sense. It's actually the way it's supposed to be. Why does the preacher have to explain this? Well, because they had a lot more problems with the cross than we do.

We love the cross, right? Some of you have jewelry with crosses on it. We wear t-shirts with a cross. We decorate our churches with three crosses. We put crosses on our tombstones. We love crosses. We celebrate crosses. But, in the first century, they did not. In the first century the cross was a scandal. So for this little Jewish community that has believed in Christ, now they are processes and trying to figure out how it's true that the Messiah,

the one who will rule, reign, and conquer, had to die on a cross. That didn't make sense because they knew in Deuteronomy that anyone that is hung on a tree is actually cursed of God. So, how can Jesus, if he is God's Son and the Messiah, be cursed of God? How does suffering fit into God's plan of salvation? That was hard for them to grasp. It was also hard for the Gentiles who believed that the gods were apart from suffering so if God had a son he wouldn't suffer. Suffering is what humans do.

So, to the Jews the cross was a stumbling block and to the Gentiles it was foolishness. It made no sense... *You're telling me to get to Heaven I have to believe in a God who sent his Son to die on a cross?...* The cross is scandalous! The cross was for criminals. The cross is not a place that God's Son would go to. So there was some confusion on how it could be true that Jesus suffered on a cross and he is still the Savior.

The preacher is saying those two are actually connected. He IS your Savior BY suffering on the cross and he can't be your Savior if he didn't suffer on the cross. It's fitting. It's right! This is how it actually HAD to happen. And how is that? Well, because we have to understand the nature and character of God.

If we go back to Exodus chapter 34 we will see a little bit of who God tells us He is. This is his character. A lot of it will be very familiar to us but there is going to be one line that you aren't going to be so sure about. So, let's read it together. Here is what it says starting in verse 6, "The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..." Man, we love all of that. That sounds like our God, right? Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He is forgiving. He is loving. He is steadfast. He is gracious. He is merciful. But then it says this, "but who will by no means clear the guilty..." Now, hold on. God is a God who is merciful and gracious and abounding in forgiveness. He's forgiving sins, iniquities, and transgressions but he is by no means going to clear the guilty. So, obvious question. How does that happen? How can God forgive you and also make you pay the crimes of your sin? How can God forgive you and by no means let you get away with the sin that you've done? In

other words, how does God justify people and also remain just? That is the question of Romans chapter three.

Here the preacher is saying it's by the cross. Amen, right? It's by the cross! At that cross you deserved death for your sin. You're guilty. You don't get cleared. You don't get grace. You get justice. But, Jesus says... *Hey, I'll take their place on the cross. I'll take their sin...* So, you're by no means cleared. No, you've been dealt with but you weren't dealt with in your own self. You were dealt with in God's Son. You were put in Christ and all of your sin was put in Christ and God dealt with your sin on the cross so that he could deal with your sin, punish your sin, and then also say you're now forgiven.

See, it's the substitutionary atonement of the gospel. It is by no means saying it's okay. No, it's not but God's Son died for it so now you can say you're forgiven and free. See, it's fitting. The suffering is fitting. Christ had to suffer on the cross for us. So why did he do that? Why did he suffer on the cross? It was to bring many sons to glory. This is that beautiful idea of where we're going. This is the point of the gospel. It's not just to forgive you. It's not just to make you a little bit better. It's that God went on a rescue mission because he wants you to spend forever with him. God is bringing many sons back to glory. How does he do that? Through the suffering of his own Son. That is how he gets us to Heaven. It's by Jesus suffering for us.

Again, let's go back to last week. We were made for glory. We're going to glory. God is bringing us towards glory and that is what God has done through the gospel. So, what is he doing? Bringing many sons to glory. It says this, "in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering."

So, let's think about this. Jesus is the founder of our salvation. That word, "founder" could also be translated as pioneer. He is the founder or the first one out. It's He who is first, who stays, who's out ahead, who we're looking at, and who we're following. That is who Jesus is. He started our salvation. He is leading our salvation out. He's the one who we are constantly looking to and that is why we follow after Jesus. It's because he started something- salvation. Sons and daughters going into glory. That is

where we are following him. But, notice what it says. To make this son the founder of our foundation what did God do? He made him perfect through suffering.

Now, what does that mean? What does it mean that Jesus was made perfect through suffering? Does that mean that in some way Jesus was not perfect before? Was he sinful before and he had to put to death his own sin and had to deal with his own muck so then eventually through suffering he could become righteous? Of course that isn't what the preacher means because it's obvious. In chapter four, verse fifteen it says that Jesus was tempted like we are yet without sin so the preacher knows Jesus has no sin. He will also say it again in chapter seven. He says that Jesus is separated from sinners. So, Christ didn't need righteous perfection. So what does it mean that God is making him perfect through suffering? He's making him the perfect Savior through suffering. What does that mean? It means that he had to live a life like you and like me in order to save us and that is a life of suffering. He had to go through what you've gone through. He had to live life like you and fight life like you and he had to win where you lost. In other words, he's fully equipped through his suffering. He can understand you. He gets you now because he's suffered with you and we're going to see that even more as we walk through this passage.

Peter O'Brien would say this- Christ being perfected is a vocational process by which he has made complete or fully equipped for this office. In other words, he's not made perfect in righteousness. He is already that. No, he's made a perfect Savior through his suffering. Why? Because he now knows you. He knows what you've gone through. He knows what you've suffered through. He understands! He is near to you! He knows you and he came to fully save you. This is what we see. This is why Christ became like us.

Notice, he didn't just come to save, he also came to sanctify. Look at verse 11, it says this, "For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source." Notice, Jesus came to sanctify and you're supposed to right now be being sanctified. Well, what does that mean? It means that when God saved you it wasn't the end of his story with you. No, he saved you and made you right with himself, but now guess what? You still look a lot like Adam and Eve and he wants you to look a lot more like Jesus. So the process of your life right now is one of sanctification. Day by day,

moment by moment you should be moving away from Adam and Eve and more towards Jesus.

So, I just want to ask. Is that happening in your life? Can you honestly say this past week there was sanctification in your life? This whole passage is about suffering and we're going to see that all throughout. Do you know why I think this is put in there in the midst of suffering? It's because one way God often sanctifies us is through suffering. A lot of times when the sun is shining, the weather is perfect, and all things are good we're just coasting but when things get rough, when the storms come, and things are taken away, what do we have to do? We have to rely on God. We have to get on our knees. We have to do some serious business for the Lord. We have to cry out to him when we're lamenting and when we're walking through things. In our suffering God is making us more like Jesus.

So, you have to see this. God purchased you through suffering and now he's making you more like Jesus also through suffering. When you go through what you're going through it can be used of God to make you more like Him as you lean on him, trust him, and are satisfied in him.

Then, notice what else. He calls us family. I love this in verse 11. It says this, "That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers..." This is Jesus! He's calling us his bros! I love this! He calls us brothers like an endearing family name. Then he is going to quote some Old Testament passages. One is from Psalm 22 and the other two are from Isaiah chapter eight. It says this in verse 12, "saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." 13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children of God has given me."

Jesus is linking himself with us. That was so good for me to hear this week because it's really cool to be a friend of Jesus, but it's really great news to be family of Jesus, to be a brother or a sister of Jesus. That is an amazing thing! Do you know why? Friends are awesome. I love friends but friends can come and go. They can be in your life for a little while and then be gone. You can get rid of bad friends. Do you know what the truth about family is? You're pretty much stuck with them. They're messy and some of you think... *if I wasn't related to them I would never hang out with them...*

Right? But the reason you hang out with them is because you're related to them. You can't do Thanksgiving and not invite Uncle Jay. He's going to be there. He's going to come and it's going to be awkward. He's going to say that crazy thing. You just know it's coming and you have to deal with it because it's family. It's messy! You can't get rid of family.

Jesus is saying.. *Hey, you're my family. I can't get rid of you and you can't get rid of me...* That is good news! We don't get into a family on how good we are or how cool we are. You're just born into it and everybody has to deal with it. Family just deals with all your warts and all your mess. That is what Jesus is saying... *Hey, you're a part of my family. You're not here because you did something. No, you're here because you got birthed into something and you can't leave it. I'm not going to leave you. You're my family and I'm always there. I'm always with you. You're always welcome at Christmas no matter what you do...*

That is good news, right? Yes, it's good news that we're not in this based on what we do but who we are. We're a part of the family of our Lord Jesus. He is endearing himself to us. When things go wrong family shows up.

Notice this. Now we're getting into the meat of our text. It tells us that Jesus both destroys and delivers and here is where we're going to see some beautiful things. That Jesus destroys Satan and he delivers us from lifelong slavery. This is good news. Some of you need to go back to who you were before Christ and remember you were under the power of Satan and you were a slave to your sin but you've been freed to both of those things. Let the gospel just well up in your heart as we read what the preacher says. Notice in verse 14, "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."

Did you hear what Jesus did? He destroys Satan, the one who has the power of death, and he frees you; he delivers you from lifelong slavery to sin. That is what Christ did.



So what did he have to do? Well, the children share in flesh and blood. The family, what are they? They are human. They are flesh and blood. So, what did Jesus have to do? Jesus had to partake of these same things. He had to become like us. Jesus had to become a man in order to save us. We're going to deal with that on a deeper level in the next verses but we've already said in chapter one that Jesus is not an angel. In chapter two the preacher is going to remind us that Jesus isn't an alien either. He's not some superman that just showed up who looks like us but isn't quite like us. No, Jesus is us. Jesus became a man. He took on flesh and blood. That was what the virgin birth was about. They didn't find some random baby somewhere that appeared to be like a human being. No, he was born in human flesh. He is a human being. He is fully God and fully man. The incarnation.

Why did he become a man? In order to save us he had to become like us. Why? Because man sinned. Man is under death so man has to die. Jesus had to become a man to do what we didn't and that is live a perfect life so that he could do what we all deserve which is die so that he could defeat death and Satan and give us life and freedom. That is what Christ has done for us through the glory of the gospel.

Now, just notice in this text that we have two great enemies that are spoken of here. Death and the devil. Now, the devil we're not quite sure what to do with, right? For some of us, the devil is all you think about. All of your decisions, it was all the devil. The devil made you do it. The devil is everything. But, for some of us, we're not really sure the devil is really a thing. You're not quite sure. It seems hokey and old. So it's like we either believe in the devil too much or we believe in the devil too little and both are equally wrong. We need to know who the devil is and what the devil does. He is clearly our enemy.

We're shown in the Bible that he is the god of this world. He is orchestrating a lot of what is happening in the world. You can kind of look around and think... *oh, that makes sense now...* Yeah, it is because the devil is the god of this world and what he does is tempt us to sin. He is the great tempter. So what the devil uses is your flesh, his world, and himself to tempt you to sin against God. Then, when you sin against God, he accuses of how bad your sin is to keep you away from God. That is Satan's

whole mission. He wants to steal, kill, and destroy you so he gets you to sin and then he gets you to keep on sinning and living as a slave to your sin so that you will never come to Jesus who actually cleanses your sin. That is his goal; that is his mission. That is what he wants to do in your life.

So, how are we under the sway of the devil? He has the power of death and we're in slavery to sin. How does that actually work? What does that look like? I think Ephesians chapter two gives us some clarity. This is from Paul and here is what he says about Satan's power over us in verse one, "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked..." So we're back to death again. This is spiritual death. You are separated from God because of your sin. He is talking about the church before they met Jesus. Notice what death in sin looked like, "following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air..." That is the devil. That is Satan. So in sin you followed after Satan. The next line says this, "the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience- 3 amount whom we all once lived..." Notice how we lived- under the influence of Satan because of death and sin. And here is what we do, "we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."

So, what does it look like to be in slavery to sin? You may be thinking... *umm, I'm pretty sure that's not me. I don't even communicate with the devil. I don't even know what he wants. I'm not following him...* Well, are you doing whatever YOU want, whatever comes into your mind, whatever comes into your heart, whatever you love, or whatever you desire? Are you just going after that even though you know it's what God says no to? That is following Satan. That is living under the sway of the evil one and living in his world that he has manipulated as the god of this world and to be against the kingdom of Christ. You're in the kingdom of darkness and the thing about the kingdom of darkness is that you can't always see that it's the dark. You don't always know you're there. You're just in it. You're just doing you. You're just living life. That is following after Satan and it's not freedom. It's actually slavery.

Doing whatever your heart desires is not freedom. It is slavery because you always go to sin and you can't stop sin. Just try to stop doing that thing that you always want to do. It doesn't work very well, right? That is because you're actually a slave to that sin that you love. This is how we follow. This is what is happening. Notice what the text says, Jesus not only destroys Satan who has the power of death, but he also delivers us from lifelong slavery. Satan has death and sin over us and he is keeping those things so that we can't get to God but if we come to Jesus we are freed from those things. Jesus defeats him on the cross and then he also sets us free. He delivers us from lifelong slavery. Our slavery to sin gets broken through the cross of Christ. When Jesus died and rose again he breaks your slavery. He breaks your bondage. Your shackles fall off! You get to go free! The cage that you're trapped in opens up when you see Jesus. The darkness becomes light and you get to walk out of it in freedom. That is what Christ has bought for us. That is what Christ has given to us. He has defeated Satan and he has given you freedom.

Now, do you know what the reality is? We are a people who are free that often go back to slavery. We are a people who have been let out of the cage of our sin. We have walked out of it but we also remember it. We remember what it felt like and we still like the old slave clothes. We still like the old stuff we used to do so we can easily go back into our own slavery to sin even though Jesus has set us free.

Listen, if that is you, if you have been delivered from sin, don't go back to it. Don't stay in it. Instead run to Jesus who opened the cage and freed you from it because it will only lead you to more death. Walk out into freedom because Christ has freed us.

Well, how does he do this? How does he defeat Satan and deliver us out of slavery? He does it through propitiation. He does it through his own blood at the cross and we're going to see that in this next passage. In verses 16 and 17 we see that Jesus is a merciful and faithful high priest. In other words, what we just saw is what he did and now we're going to see how he does it and it is beautiful. Notice what it says, "16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make

propitiation for the sins of the people.” That is how he defeated Satan and that is how he delivered you, by being your sacrifice, your substitute. He was your merciful high priest. Do you know what’s interesting? No priest in the Old Testament is called a merciful high priest. Priests are just. They do what they’re supposed to do. They do what the law says. Only Jesus is called a merciful priest because it’s connecting him to God. Who is God? A God of mercy! A God who can justify you and also have justice because of the cross.

So, how did this happen? Well, Jesus, again, had to become like you. He has said it twice now. He had to take on flesh and blood and now he’s saying he had to be made like you in every respect in order to be your merciful and faithful high priest. He is really hitting on this. Jesus had to become like you in order to save you. Why is that? Why did he have to become like us and what does it mean that he became like us? Because here is what some of us think, when we think about the incarnation of Jesus, we know he lived life as a man, but let’s be honest. He is also God so was it really that hard for him to fight temptation if he’s God? I’m pretty sure if I’m the God Man then I could say no to any temptation. That would be easy. So it was kind of rigged, right? He’s kind of like us but not really because he’s also God. It was like a cheat code. Some of us don’t think it was a real fight or a real struggle for him.

I want to give you an illustration that one of my professors, Dr. Bruce Ware gave to me because it was so impactful. It’s from Philippians two and there is actually a children’s book based on it called, *The Peasant Prince*. I want to give you the synopsis of this little kid’s book called, *The Peasant Prince*, and I it will hopefully help you understand what Christ actually did in becoming a man and how he fought life as you and not in a way that wasn’t like you.

You have this little boy named Levi and he is a prince. He lives in a castle. Mom and Dad are king and queen. Anything he wants he has. It’s awesome. He’s walking down the hall one day and there was a knight he overheard talking about how terrible it was in the village. In the village everybody is starving, everyone is dying, and no one has food. The prince didn’t realize this and he decides he wants to know what it’s like to live among his people. He wants to know what it’s like to be a beggar in his

kingdom so he can be a better prince to his people. So, what does the prince do? He has to put on the form of a beggar. He gets dirty, smelly clothes to wear and puts dirt on his face. He puts on the form of a beggar. Now, is he still the prince? Of course he is. He doesn't stop being the prince but what has he done? He's put on the form of a beggar. Now he stinks and doesn't look like the prince. He walks out of the castle late at night, goes into the village, and lives life as a peasant, as a beggar.

His first little suffering moment comes up. He gets hungry. What do you do if you're the prince and you're hungry? You have two options. Number one, you can say, "hey, I'm the prince. Give me food." What is that person going to do? Give the prince food. Give him whatever he wants. But, if Levi did that what would he not get to experience? Life as a peasant. Levi has to figure it out. He can't appeal to his prince prerogatives. He has to live life like a peasant. What does he do? He gets a job and sweeps some floors. He begs a little bit and gets a few coins. He puts them together and gets a piece of bread to eat but he just barely gets enough to make it by.

The story goes on a little bit and he gets some buddies. The buddies get into some trouble and he doesn't partake in it but the cops don't know that so he gets thrown in prison. Now you have Prince Levi thrown in prison but they don't know he's Prince Levi. Now he's in prison so what does he do? Well, he has two options. The easy option would be to say, "Hey, guard, would you come here for a minute? I'm the prince and you're dead. It's a bad day for you. You didn't realize I'm the prince so let me out, take me to the castle, and everything will be good." He could do that because he's the prince but if he did that what would he cease to be? The peasant who is experiencing life as a peasant. He wouldn't understand what it was like to be a peasant in prison so what does Levi have to do? He has to stay in prison, he has to endure the beatings, he has to endure the cold, and he has to endure the hunger. He has to stay the course of to experience life as a peasant.

Then he gets out and the story goes a little further. He is walking down the road and he can hear the royal procession coming by. It's his mom and dad and they are shouting on loud speakers for Prince Levi. They're looking for Prince Levi. As he's watching the parade two guys grab him and start to club him. They beat him and they beat him as he is within earshot of his

mom and dad. What does Levi do? Well, he has two options. He can say, "Dad!" Then game over. Those people are dead. He is rescued and everything is back how it should be. But, the moment he says, "Dad," what else happens? He stops living life as a peasant and he will never understand what it's like to be a peasant in that situation. So what does Levi have to do? He has to stay the course. He has to get beaten within an inch of his life. He has to endure. Then after a few days he goes back to the palace and when he goes through the doors he's able to say, "Mom and Dad, I know what it's like to be a peasant because I've lived every moment as a peasant never appealing to my princely crown. I know what it's like."

That is what Jesus Christ did for us. He left heaven. He left all of the prerogatives of being God. He didn't count equality with God a thing to be grasped as Philippians two says. No, he put them aside. He didn't live our life in his divine nature. He lived our life in his human nature. He fought every battle and every struggle just like you and me as a human being. Everything he went through- all the suffering, the beatings, and the betrayals- he fought it like you and me as a human being. He fought this life and he lived the good life just like you and just like me. Why did he do that? So that he could be a merciful and faithful high priest, so he could know us, so he could get us, and so he could know what we go through, and what we are feeling. He knows your hardship, he knows that struggle, he knows that suffering, and he knows that pain because he's been there. He lost loved ones. He grieved with people. He was thrown out of his hometown. He was beaten. His brothers left him. His best friend betrayed him. He was sold out and he was crucified.

Jesus gets what you're going through because he went through it not as the Son of God. He went through it as the Son of Man like you. He gets you! He knows what you're going through and he can help you all the way through it and that is what we're going to see in a moment, but before we get there notice what it says. He did this to become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to do something- to make propitiation for the sins of the people. He did it to make propitiation. Some of you don't know what that word is and that is okay. Just stick with me for a second. It's a beautiful word. It's one of my favorite words in all of the Bible. It's

used a few times. It's used here, in Romans three, 1 John chapter two, and various places.

Propitiation is a word that comes from Leviticus chapter 16- that day of atonement. The high priest would go into the Holy of Holies. You had the Ark of the Covenant, the lid of the Ark of the Covenant where the angels were guarding, and was the presence of God. It is where God's presence was. The high priest would come in, put blood on the mercy seat, and when the blood hit the mercy seat God's wrath would fill the mercy seat, soak it up, and his wrath would turn to love and favor. The hatred he had towards his sinful people would be soaked up and now he's able to forgive them and see them as friends and family. At the mercy seat atonement was made and forgiveness was had. The word, "mercy seat" or the lid of the Ark of the Covenant, when it goes into the New Testament it gets translated as propitiation. So propitiation literally means the mercy seat.

He's telling the Hebrew people... *hey, do you remember that mercy seat? Jesus is our mercy seat. He is the very place where God's wrath came upon our sin and it was soaked up, it was satisfied, it was dealt with, and now it has turned to God's favor...* That is Jesus but it's not only this. He is the high priest and he is also the sacrifice. We're going to get more into that as we get to chapters six and seven. This is just a little preview but notice he is the propitiation.

Here is my next question. How did Jesus defeat Satan and how did he deliver us from our slavery to sin? Well, what is ultimately keeping us from God? Our sin. What is keeping us from heaven? Our sin. What is keeping us from glory? Our sin. What is keeping us connected to Satan? Our sin. What did Jesus do? He is the propitiation for our sins. He is the wrath absorbing sacrifice. He is the one who forgives our sin so that our sin no longer connects us to Satan. Our sin is done away with as far as the east is from the west so that we can be the sons of glory that go back to God. That is what we get to do! That is the glory of the gospel! It is that Christ is our propitiation. He dealt with our sins.

Then, notice what that means for us. I love this in verse 18. Jesus helps us. Yes, he saves us and it's beautiful. That is the bigger part but he also helps us right here and right now. Notice what it says, "For because he

himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted." Christ suffered. He suffered the temptation and now he's able to help you in your suffering in your temptations.

Now, when I first read this I thought our temptation to sin, our temptation to lust, greed, pornography, and those things. He can help us because he fought through those and we're going to get to that in chapter four but I don't think that is what's happening here. I don't think this is a temptation towards sin. I think it's the temptation of suffering itself. Because do you know what happens? Whenever we suffer we are greatly tempted. Our suffering is one of our greatest places of temptation because we're tempted to leave. We're tempted to give up. We're tempted to distrust. We're tempted to say... *I don't know what you're doing and I don't think you're good and I'm just going to walk away...* When we're under suffering we can look to him WHO suffered and he can help us in our suffering.

Piper is the one who helped me understand that it's this kind of temptation. Here is what he says, "It says he was tempted in that which he suffered." So, not towards sin but actually suffering. "This isn't the temptation of lust or greed. This is a temptation to get angry or be resentful or sullen or self-pitying and despairing and unbelieving in the goodness of God." That is what we're tempted to do in our suffering. At the end of the day we are tempted to walk away and say God's not good because of what we're going through.

As I look out and think about even just the last three weeks I know that so many of you are walking through so much suffering. I see everyone single one of you- you know who you are- and I know you have been through horrific suffering. To see every single one of you remain faithful to Christ has been unreal. I've left so many times after having conversations with you, spending time with you, sitting in hospitals with you, and praying for you, and walking away saying... *God, I don't know if I was there that I would be doing what she's doing... I don't know that I would still be saying what she's saying... I'm not sure if I would still be doing what he's doing because it's just so overwhelming...* I would have so many questions! But in suffering, do you know what these girls and guys have? They have Jesus who suffered too and I've seen Jesus be their help. I've seen Jesus not be distant or far or just some God way up there. I've seen him be so near.



I've seen him walk with them. I've seen him draw so close and near and dear to them that he's become everything to them. I've seen it happen! You've seen it happen in your life, too. Through suffering we have this great temptation and the temptation is to think that somehow suffering is somehow unfitting because we are believers. We are on God's side so how does suffering fit in? Do we see the world is broken? We do. Of course suffering and all of the things are going to happen but it's fitting also that Jesus should suffer and that Jesus should come into our suffering so that as we suffer, the one who killed death, killed sin, and killed Satan can walk in our suffering right now and suffer alongside of us and then lead us to glory. Sometimes through our suffering are our greatest moments of sanctification. He's leading us to glory not around suffering but he's leading us to glory through his suffering and also through our suffering so that we would see Jesus and he would be our help.

I know we can see and feel the world is broken. Our world is broken. So what is our hope? Our hope is that we have a God who didn't have to but he chose to come into this broken world and suffer for us, suffer our sin, suffer a life so that he could destroy Satan and deliver us from slavery and now, right now, be present and near through all of our temptations that come through suffering because we want comfort. We want help. We want joy.

Suffering brings unique temptations. If you're there and you're tempted to give up or go back, look to Jesus. He suffered. He knows you, he feels you, he gets you, and he's right there with you. He is near; he is not far and he can help you in your suffering because he himself suffered.