



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

01 - A Higher Name

Announcements:

12/06 @7:30 -

Prayer

12/07 @6:30 -

Grace Group

12/10 @8:30 -

Sunday School

12/10 @6:00 -

Family Night

SMALL GROUP

ICE BREAKER: Does your name have any particular meaning? What does it say about you?

READ: Hebrews 1:1-4

As I mentioned on Sunday, I most certainly bit off way more than I could chew by looking at all of Hebrews 1. There are few passages more rich or powerful in speaking of the nature and beauty of Jesus. As I went through it all week I thought “Well, that could be a whole sermon” about 12 times. One of the things that we miss in taking such a high level view of these things is some of the cultural context of what the writer of Hebrews is saying. So today let’s dive into one of these things. We find it in verse 4. Here we can ask: What is so important about Jesus' name?

We live in a day and age where often the only thought given to a name is if it sounds good (and sometimes if the initials spell anything out!). But this was not as true in Jesus’ time. As one commentator notes: “The modern saying, ‘What’s in a name?’ certainly did not apply then, for names were more than a means of distinguishing people; they were means of saying something about those people. The name described the nature.” The writer of Hebrews is saying something very important here then. He is superior to the angels because his NAME is superior to the angels because his NATURE is superior to the angels. If we just think about this it becomes clear. He is the creator; the angels are created beings. The angels are “ministering spirits”; Jesus is the High King of Heaven. The angels are to follow Jesus commands (see Matthew 26:53); not the other way around. We could go on and on with ways that describe how and why the very nature of Jesus is better, or we could say that the name that he has is far superior to the one that they have.

DISCUSS: Why is it important for the writer of Hebrews to focus on the nature of Jesus? In other words, How does this help the arguments that he has made earlier?

So what particular name has Jesus been given? There are a lot that we could cover. There are the “blank of blank” ones we like to say: King of Kings, Lord of Lords. There is Jesus’ favorite name for himself: “Son of Man”. But in particular the name that we can see here in Hebrews is just “Son”. It is through the “Son” that God speaks to us (see verse 2). He is the begotten Son (see verse 5). Over and over again the writer wants us to see that Jesus is God’s son (see the above and 6 and 8 and into chapter 2 and on and on!). While above we noted the nature of Jesus in a few different ways, this way is one of the most foundational and important. Without getting too far into the weeds with the doctrine of the Trinity, that Jesus is the son is of critical importance. It is not just that he coincidentally was the son, rather his sonship is a critical part of who he is. In eternity, before anything was made, Jesus was the son. In the incarnation, when He came to earth, Jesus was the son, and forever and all time seated at the right hand of the father Jesus is the Son. it is just a part of his nature.

DISCUSS: Why is Jesus sonship so important to us? What does this mean for our lives?

But there is one more note that we can make about the name of Jesus, as to why it is so superior. It is because we would never read that “at the name of the angels every knee will bow and every tongue confess” But we certainly do with Jesus (Philippians 2:10-11). The name of Jesus has with it the power and authority of divinity. On Sunday we saw how Jesus had God’s glory, nature and power. In this little phrase, that his name is far superior to the angels all that and more is tied up too. It is important that we understand how great his name is because we will be spending all of eternity signing phrases to that same name. In fact, it will not just be us, but the angels to, joining the churros of heaven singing “worthy is the lame who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12)

DISCUSS: What does it mean for us to praise the name of Jesus? *hint, think of all that the name means!)