

## “Just Like Us”

02-02-14

Here we are this morning, and many of us, if not all of us, have some problem that's concerning us. It seems as though every day has something in it that causes us to worry or be uncomfortable. This feeling comes from a problem that continues to rear its head. The problem is sin!

When God created the world and everything in it, everything was perfect! Each and every day of creation, He looked back at what He'd done and proclaimed it good. Sin corrupted God's perfection. Sin has also corrupted us! We make decisions that don't go along with God's Will and instead, go our own way because we think it's better.

Open to Ephesians 2. We live in a fallen, sinful world as fallen, sinful people. It's sad to say, but in many ways we look just like everyone else and live our lives just like everybody else. Because of the sinful way we live, sin separates us from God and condemns us eternally. Verses 1-3, *“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”*

So, if that's the case, what's our chance of recovering from this condition? God has an answer. Despite living in this fallen world, we can have hope and confidence. We may not be able to see God's future perfection, but we can see the solution and that solution is Jesus.

Open to Hebrews 2. The president of a large Christian organization received news that his only son had been murdered in his taxicab in Denver. One person at the funeral reflected on the point that Someone Else's Son had been murdered, and that He knew the pain and anguish of the young man's parents.

That Someone Else is God and Jesus is His Son. Jesus knows everything about you as you go through in life. He's been there. Verses 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, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 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. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”*

He's been through it all just like us! Have you been hurt by someone you love? He's been there – every time we disobey Him. Has someone betrayed your trust? He's been there. He trusted His disciples to stay awake and pray with Him, and look how many of His servants fell asleep. Is the temptation you're facing seem too much to bear? He's been there – think how He must have felt in the desert when the Devil tempted Him by reminding Him that He was the Son of God and could turn stone to bread.

Have you suffered physically? He's been there. Jesus' torture and crucifixion was horrible. Are you weary of life's pressures? He's been there. Scripture tells us that many times Jesus got away to be alone, away from the crowds and their expectations of the Messiah. Jesus lived just like us, only He never sinned once!

Open to Colossians 1. But that's not the end of the story, in fact it's only part! He's above all. **Verses 15-19**, *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of*

*the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”*

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I’m not talking about someone saying “*I feel your pain*” and offers you an encouraging pat on the back with a quick, “*I’ll pray for you.*” NO! I’m talking about the Son of Almighty God – powerful to save and deliver those who call on Him! He’s not limited by time, space, or circumstance. He’s the Rock of our salvation! Psalm 18:2 says, “*The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*”

Open to Matthew 11. He’s Here Now! When life brings its worst, God gives His very best – Jesus! All Jesus asks of His people is to put away the things of the world and its patterns and come to Him. Verses 28-30, “*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*”

Come to Him and receive hope. He’s always there and invites to come to Him for help. Come to receive care. No matter who you are or no matter what you’ve done, He cares about you. Think about the people who surrounded Him. They weren’t the wealthy or the highly thought of, they were just poor, lowly people. He showed that as He gave up heaven to suffer and die for you. Come to Him and receive peace. You’re never alone. He is always there at your side and loves and supports you no matter what.

Let this fill your life to overflowing each and every day. Come to Him and receive rest. The world is constantly fighting against you and the things of God. Pull yourself away and get diligently and totally into His Word and prayer. Be so filled with Him and His rest, the problems of the world fade.

Come to Him, He’s ready when you are. He’ll never turn His back on you, and He longs to help you because He understands you. Always remember, He’s just like us! He’s been there. He’s above all, He’s here now, and He will be with you forever!