

# Better (Hebrews)

Sermon Questions | 11.09.14

## Opener

What experience can you explain to someone who hasn't experienced it?

We all will die. Most fear death. Many don't. How can we face fear and not be afraid of death?

Jesus is our archegon - our champion. He forged the way through death, conquering it, to make it possible for us to have hope that we, too, will conquer death. (Hebrews 2:10)

## Read

Hebrews 2:10-18

Psalm 34:4, 91:4; 1 Peter 5:7; Proverbs 3:5-6

Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10, 13; Isaiah 43:18-19; Psalm 73:23-24

1 John 4:18

Matthew 6:26-33

Psalm 22

## Engaging with God in a Group

How did you feel the first time someone close to you died or faced death?

How do you handle news of a loved one's death these days? Why is that important?

Many Bible verses address fear. Look up the following Scriptures and read aloud.

- God is the answer to a fearful heart. Psalm 34:4, 91:4; 1 Peter 5:7; Proverbs 3:5-6
- God is with us in every situation; therefore, there is no need for fear. Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10, 13; Isaiah 43:18-19; Psalm 73:23-24
- God is love. What does our fear tell us? 1 John 4:18
- Seek God first and our other needs fall into place. Matthew 6:26-33

It's natural to feel fear. However, we are to trust in God and not fear. But how? His death for us makes death less scary. His presence with us will take all the fear away, as we trust him in that moment. What practice(s) can you put into place now, so that the next time you face fear, you instead will trust God?

Do you habitually dwell in fear? Choose one of the verses you read above on fear – memorize it and meditate on it.

If you are afraid of dying and have trusted Jesus for salvation, meditate on the truths in Psalm 22. Recognize that Jesus is in you and will be with you.

If you have a loved one who is terminally ill. Share Hebrews 2:10-18 and Psalm 22 with them. Remind them that they will not be alone when they die. Jesus will be with them now, and as they die, and also after death, when they will be face to face with Jesus!

## **Engaging with God Alone**

If you have not trusted Christ for salvation yet, you will be alone when you die. You will be separated for eternity from Jesus. But, you can choose to trust Jesus today. Click [here](#) to find out how.

If you have suicidal thoughts, you are more afraid of living than you are of dying. Suicide is never the right answer. Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and you will be connected to a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center in your area, anytime 24/7.

Hope is the central theme of Hebrews. In Jesus you will find hope – he is your champion over death and the fear of death. “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” Heb. 2:14-15

## **Closing thoughts and prayer**

Jesus, you are our champion over death and our fears of death.

Lord, help us know that, “since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death” (Heb. 2:14-15).

