



HE'S NO ANGEL

H E B R E W S 1 : 1 - 6



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Sunday, December 8, 2019

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley

Sermon: He's No Angel

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-16 (NIV & NKJV)



CURRICULUM GUIDE



Sermon Summary

1. Jesus is greater than the prophets because he is without the problems of:

- a) Continuity
- b) Clarity
- c) Contamination

2. Jesus is greater than the angels, who are:

- a) Messengers of God's word
- b) Protectors of God's people
- c) and Worshippers of God's glory

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's word, because He has eternal reign, not temporary assignments like prophets or angels, and is without any comparison.

Notes for Facilitators:

We look forward to seeing all of you who plan on joining us for Village Celebration Weekend next weekend. This Thursday, facilitators will receive a reminder email. Be sure to wear your wristband or Village gear and arrive on time so we can ensure your Village can sit together.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. What do you put on your grits? (Please exercise Christian kindness when answering.)
2. Pastor Wesley said that Jesus has been removed from being the reason for the season. Discuss some of your Christmas traditions that reflect the greatness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Into The Bible Questions:

1. Read the Old Testament references from the passages below. Discuss how each verse describes the life of Jesus and His work. What confidence does this give you in Jesus and His word?
 - Numbers 12:6
 - Joel 2:28
 - Psalm 2:8
 - 2nd Samuel 7:14a
 - Psalm 97:7
2. Read Isaiah 6:1-3 that references the seraphim, a type of angel. Take a moment to imagine this scene of worship that goes on continuously in heaven (Revelation 4). Since we are considered just “a little lower than the angels,” (Hebrews 2:7), discuss how we can show reverence and worship for the Lord Jesus Christ in our everyday lives.

Life Application Questions:

1. Jesus is the answer to the problem of “continuity,” which is fragmented or episodic access to God. Pastor Wesley explained that when the Lord reigns over your life, you have continuous access to God’s will and word, His love, grace, and mercy. Discuss what this means to you and how you stay connected, especially since He is available 24-7.
2. Pastor Wesley taught us about the problem of “contamination”. Describe a time when your faith journey was stifled by the contamination of a human vessel. What strategies do you use to look beyond the faults of human flesh to continue to receive the word?
3. Pastor Wesley stated that God speaks to us in various ways:
 - a) To which method of God speaking are you most receptive?
 - b) Which method was the most unique?
 - c) Have you ever misinterpreted God’s message to you?
 - d) How did you discover that you moved in a way that God had not intended, despite your best intentions?
4. Pastor mentioned that before we accepted Christ, God revealed Godself to us and spoke to us. Can you recall a time that you have had a significant encounter with the Lord before accepting Christ?



"Can I Push It?"

Jesus sits on the right hand of God's throne which exemplifies His seat of power in our lives and where He constantly makes intercession for us and judges us as innocent. What 'guilty' people do you struggle with Jesus pardoning or fighting for in the way He has done for you?

Spirit Work:

We learned from the sermon that Jesus is greater than the prophets, greater than the angels, and He is the fulfillment of God's word. List the area(s) in your life where your knowledge of these truths don't line up with your actions. What changes if any do you need to make as you go into the New Year/decade?



Activity:

1. ***Jesus is the Reason for the Season!*** Take this opportunity to do the following:
 - a) Have each member list two of their favorite Christmas hymns, and one secular Christmas song.
 - b) Sing 2-3 of the groups' favorite hymns.
 - c) Remix one of the groups' favorite secular Christmas songs by changing the lyrics to add Jesus.
 - d) Record your singing if time permits.
2. ***Prayers for the Holidays:*** All of us in our Village will have a different experience of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. For some, it brings great excitement and fun with family. For others, the holiday season can bring grief, regret, or anxiety. Regardless of the mood of our holidays, we all need prayer in between this week and the start of the next Village season. Take a moment to write down your Christmas and New Year's prayer request. Facilitators, please type up this list and share it with your Village.

Additional Question for Married Couples Villages:

1. Discuss ways you and your mate can elevate Jesus as Lord in your life individually and in your marriage. What needs to be dethroned, removed, or put in its proper place? Where are you having success and what benefits do they bring to your marriage?
2. Pastor stated that one of the roles of angels is to be a protector of God's people. In what ways has your marriage experienced the protection of God?

Additional Question for Young Adult Villages:

1. Pastor Wesley said that his frustration with Christmas without Jesus has grown as he ages. What childish fascinations have you outgrown, and what new festivities can you practice as a maturing Christian to keep Jesus at the center of your celebrations?
2. In Jesus, we have “clarity” or the clearest manifestation of the will of God for our lives. Discuss how you are developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Discuss how the relationship has provided clarity to your life or interpretation of His will for your life. Discuss where you may still struggle with developing a personal relationship with Him (e.g., what gets in the way?).

Additional Questions for Parents’ Villages:

1. The truth about the miraculous birth of Jesus is often secondary in the minds of many children as they focus on anticipating and receiving Christmas gifts. What can you do this Christmas season to help your children focus more on Jesus?
2. Pastor mentioned the importance of utilizing the power of Jesus’ name by using the phrase “in Jesus’ name” in prayer. Discuss why it is important to use “in Jesus’ name”. How would you instill this practice with your children as you teach them about Jesus and the importance of prayer?

Additional Questions for Women Villages:

1. Pastor Wesley pointed out that angels are messengers of God’s word. In Luke 1:30-31, the angel told Mary not to be afraid, that she has found favor with God, and that she will conceive a son. Discuss some of the challenges or fears that she could have experienced. What great things are you excited about bringing to life this Christmas and the New Year?
2. Jesus reigns supreme in and over our lives. Discuss how He has provided continuity, clarity, and purity to your life. What have been the benefits of having a personal relationship with him? Discuss what you need from Him today but may be too hesitant to ask. For topics that are too personal to share in the group, take time to write them down in your prayer journal and discuss with the Lord.