



TUESDAY

EMPATHY

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(OUR MISSIONARIES TO HONG KONG)

Read Hebrews 2:14-18

From Heaven to Earth. From Creator (God) to Created Being (Man). As Almighty God, Jesus came to earth to share in our humanity. “He had to be made like His brothers in every way.” “Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.” Empathy describes the attitude and action of Jesus when He, the eternal Word of God, became flesh like you and me. Identifying with our human nature, weakness and need meant sacrifice for Jesus. To demonstrate a godly empathy for mankind, Jesus became like us to experience the exhaustion, the hunger, the pain, the lack of heavenly comforts. He had to totally give Himself to the will of God. As the author of our salvation, Jesus was perfected by what He suffered. (Hebrews 2:12)

Now He calls on His children to experience what it means to make the same kind of commitment: “Not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42) As we imitate Him through giving ourselves as living sacrifices, we understand the empathy He showed for us. Furthermore, others will see how we empathize with them and will be drawn to Him. Let us consider what it means to truly empathize with those around us. To empathize with brethren overseas, we could try going without electricity for one month like some had to do after a tropical typhoon. We could walk 3 hours to go share the gospel with another person. What would it mean for you to empathize with someone in your family or community in the midst of their hardships? If you were suffering, what would it take for me to empathize with you?

The key to fruitful spiritual fulfillment is in adopting the mind of Christ in our goals, values, thinking and actions. As we do that we become His servants and missionaries to those around us. The most basic requirement is learning to empathize as Jesus did.

Lord God, show us how we can imitate Jesus Christ as we empathize with others. Show us to whom and how we can do that. We glorify you in Jesus' name.