



HEBREWS RECAP

Hebrews 12.1-3

- **Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses** - because we have the testimony of so many OT men/women who have lived lives of faith
 - **Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles** - get rid of anything/everything that would weigh us down or trip us up in following Jesus
 - **Let us turn with perseverance the race marked out for us fixing our eyes on Jesus the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith** - continue to follow Jesus even in midst of difficult circumstances keeping our full attention on Him since He has gone before us and makes a way for us in faithfulness and since He is will bring our faith to its intended goal – Christlikeness





HEBREWS RECAP

- **Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses** – because we have the testimony of so many OT men/women who have lived lives of faith
- **Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners so you don't grow weary and lose heart** – reflect deeply on the persecution Jesus endured and His response to that treatment, and then compare our own suffering/response to His, so we don't become discouraged and quit following Him





HEBREWS 12:4-17

- **Endure hardship as discipline** (it is for discipline that you have to endure)
 - **Discipline** – 10xs in v5-11; act of providing guidance for proper living; includes instruction/training/correction; goal is Christlikeness
 - **Endure** – to maintain a belief/course of action in face of opposition
 - Choose to see the persecution/suffering you are experiencing as a tool God will use to mold you and shape you into the image of Jesus





HEBREWS 12:4-17

Why we can/should see suffering as discipline

- **V5-6: OT says so - And have you completely forgotten...** – or ‘remember’ – recall this truth and allow it to form your understanding of what you are now experiencing
 - **Word of encouragement** - That the Lord disciplines those He loves
 - **Heb 5.8** – Son though He was Jesus learned obedience through what He suffered





HEBREWS 12:4-17

Why we can/should see suffering as discipline

- V8-10: We accept discipline from our earthly fathers, why not from our Heavenly Father
 - They did best they could
 - He does the best period –
 - Always for our good so we can share in His holiness – for Him to be our God and us to be His people we have to be made holy
 - Declared holy at conversion – set apart from world/kingdom of darkness and set apart for the Lord
 - Become holy as we follow Jesus – sanctification; taking on the likeness of our adopted family; becoming more like Jesus





HEBREWS 12:4-17

Why we can/should see suffering as discipline

- **V11: Discipline isn't pleasant but produces good fruit**
 - **Not pleasant, but painful** – more literally not joyful, but sorrowful; recognition of reality, not trying to make a bad a good thing
 - **Harvest of righteousness and peace** – more literally peaceful fruit of righteousness; state of internal wholeness and harmony with God that results from being conformed into image of Jesus



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HEBREWS 12:4-17

How do we throw off hindrances/run the race?
How do we strengthen feeble arms/knees and make straight paths?

- **Make every effort to live in peace with everyone; and to be holy for without holiness no one will see the Lord.**
 - **Make every effort** – earnest, diligent, continuous pursuit of something
 - **Peace** – within contexts of interpersonal relationships peace = harmony
 - **Be holy** – respond to persecution as Jesus did (make every effort to live in peace)
 - Turn the other cheek
 - Pray for those who persecute you
 - Bless those who curse you
 - Forgive those who sin against you





HEBREWS 12:4-17

How do we throw off hindrances/run the race?
How do we strengthen feeble arms/knees and make straight paths?

- See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many
 - See to it – given attention to
 - Two sides of same coin
 - Fall short – miss out on something due to one's own fault
 - Bitter root – Deut 29.18; condition of the heart which produces sinful attitudes and actions





HEBREWS 12:4-17

How do we throw off hindrances/run the race?
How do we strengthen feeble arms/knees and
make straight paths?

- See that no one is sexually immoral or godless like Esau
 - **Sexually immoral** – no sex before/outside of marriage
 - Godless like Esau
 - Sold his right to inherit as firstborn for a single meal (bowl of stew)
 - **Told he ‘despised’ his birthright** – treated it with contempt, considered it worthless
 - Consequence – when he wanted Isaac to bless him Isaac wouldn’t/couldn’t

