Looking Unto Jesus

Robert Harkrider · Hebrews 12:1–3

INTRODUCTION

- The writer in Hebrews 12 speaks about a race that all of us who serve the Lord are involved in.
- Remember who Jesus is. Remember the superiority of Jesus.
- Here's a way to keep on keeping on and rejoice even when there are obstacles in your way.

1 He Endured the Cross

Hebrews 12:2; Luke 22

- That verb endured is a strong verb. It actually mirrors the entire scene of suffering and death.
- It was not an easy thing, even for the Son of God.
- In Luke chapter 22, three different times, the scripture describes our Lord as praying, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.

2 The Author and Finisher of Our Faith

Hebrews 2:10; Hebrews 5:7–9; John 10:18

- Jesus Christ is the captain in that sense that he is the one who takes the lead. He provides the first occasion. He is the example for us.
- Though he was a son, yet he learned obedience by the things which he suffered. And having been perfected, he became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him.
- Either each of us who have sinned will pay it ourselves totally and eternally separated from God, or else one will die in our place. Jesus Christ died in our place.
- He is one who, by suffering death on the cross, made it possible to bring to completion our own salvation, dying in our stead.

3 Despising the Shame, Enduring the Contradiction of Sinners

Hebrews 12:3; Hebrews 12:4

- There was shame to the cross. It was the most cruel form of putting one to death that the Romans ever did.
- But instead, he suffered. Because of you and because of me.
- The very ones that he was dying for hated him, mocked him, beat him, betrayed him, and nailed him to the cross.
- If he could endure such contradiction of sinners, if he could endure despising the shame, who are we to be saying, Lord, it's just so hard.

4 For the Joy Set Before Him

Philippians 2:5–9; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3–9

- He knew that when he obeyed the Father, there would be the outcome of salvation.
- We see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he, by the grace of God might taste death for everyone.
- We too, if we're going to succeed in the race that we're running as a Christian, that we have to have the kind of hope that serves as an anchor of the soul.
- They would rejoice only because they had a destiny. They had a hope.

5 Surrounded by So Great a Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 11:32–40

- Whenever you find the word therefore, usually it is an expression that is based upon what precedes it.
- It was easier for him than for us. That's pitiful thinking.
- Throughout that chapter is one example of faith after another. But men and women like you and like me.
- World is not worthy even today of those who faithfully served the Lord.

6 Lay Aside Every Weight and the Sin

Hebrews 12:1; 1 Corinthians 9:24–26

- They lay aside everything they can to run with no weight hindering them.
- Perhaps the sin that so easily besets could be the sin of unbelief.
- If you're not obeying the Lord, it becomes a form of unbelief.
- I run in a race where everyone can win the gold medal.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **My beloved, you and I are in a race. May God help us to remember who we're serving, where we're going.**

MY NOTES