

The Face of Endurance

Revive

Hebrews 12:1-3

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3

REFLECTION

Last week we took the opportunity to reflect on those who have shaped our faith, our own “cloud of witnesses.” The metaphor of a long race is used to illustrate the Christian life in verse 1. Our journey is not a sprint but a marathon, and because of its length, the risk of “dropping out” is real. ***Whose faith has been easy to recognize through their actions? When have you felt like “dropping out” and who helped encourage you back?***

Chapter 11 encourages us through the faith of others, whereas chapter 12 helps us understand how faith can carry us. The way to begin is to first release our burdens, as verse 1 instructs: “lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely...” ***What sins are distracting and burdening you (jealousy, self-hatred, bitterness, anger)? Who needs your forgiveness, or for what reason can you not forgive yourself?***

This letter encourages the Hebrew people to persevere in the face of great trials and struggles. *Perseverance in the Christian life draws its power not from inner human strength, but from faith and hope in the God who upholds us no matter what we encounter in life.* - [The Theology of Work Project](#). ***Read verse 2: How does Jesus’ suffering and being treated as valueless prove to you that you are loved beyond measure? How does this reassure you that God continues to work in your life even when you might feel like your life is falling apart?***

Consider these two encouragements from today’s passage:

- 1) We are part of something so much bigger than ourselves. God has wired us to give and receive life from others. ***Who has encouraged you to keep going and keep your faith in God? Who are you meant to push and spur on?***
- 2) We are not to fix our eyes on the heroes of our faith, but on Jesus alone. ***How can you carve out time to look toward Jesus? What examples of his life and death, and how He ran his race do you need to focus on?***

Heavenly Father, thank you for the assurance that You provide us with endurance. May we look to Jesus. Amen