

I. Introduction: Recap of Previous Sermon

- A. God's protection when we depend on Him
- B. Being made strong out of weakness (Hebrews 11:34)
- C. Faith does not exempt us from trials
- D. Bloopers and highlights in our lives
- E. God's concern for direction over perfection

II. The Great Cloud of Witnesses (Hebrews 12:1)

- A. Heroes of faith from chapter 11
- B. Arena illustration - spectators and runners
- C. Running with endurance

III. Laying Aside Weights (Hebrews 12:1)

- A. Definition of weights - not inherently sinful
- B. Things competing with devotion to Christ
 - 1. Entertainment
 - 2. Sports obsessions
 - 3. Social media
 - 4. Hobbies
 - 5. Excessive work
- C. Taking inventory of our time
- D. Practical steps to reduce weights
 - 1. Cut social media time in half
 - 2. Reduce television watching
 - 3. Set boundaries on work time
- E. Replace with prayer and Scripture reading
- F. Martha's example (Luke 10:40-42)

IV. Laying Aside Sin (Hebrews 12:1)

- A. Sin as lawlessness (1 John 3:4)
- B. Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees (Matthew 23:28)
- C. Whitewashed tombs illustration
- D. Various forms of sin
- E. Putting off the old man, putting on the new man

V. Looking to Jesus Daily

- A. Look BACK to the cross - Remember what He did
- B. Look UP to the risen Christ - Remember where He is
- C. Look AHEAD to His return - Remember where history is heading

VI. Jesus: Author and Finisher of Faith (Hebrews 12:2)

- A. Focus solely on Jesus
- B. Olympic athlete illustration
- C. Meaning of "author" - Prince of life, Captain of salvation

- D. "ICE" contact illustration
- E. What Jesus accomplished
 - 1. Became a man
 - 2. Suffered temptation
 - 3. Suffered and died for our sins
 - 4. Conquered death through resurrection
 - 5. Entered God's presence as High Priest
- F. Complete in Him

VII. The Joy Set Before Jesus

- A. Joy in doing the Father's will
- B. Joy in providing salvation
- C. Woman in labor illustration
- D. We are His joy
- E. Jesus' desire for fellowship (John 17:24)
- F. Enduring to reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12)

VIII. Jesus Endured the Cross and Shame

- A. Crucifixion as humiliating execution
- B. Public shame of crucifixion
- C. Jesus' completed mission
- D. Now seated at right hand of God

IX. Introduction to Chastisement

- A. Context: Jewish Christians facing persecution
- B. Theme of discipline/chastening
- C. Definition of "paideuō" - to train a child
- D. Purpose: develop holiness, maturity, Christlike character
- E. Mark of God's love

X. Consider Jesus' Suffering (Hebrews 12:3)

- A. Hostility from sinners
- B. Warning against becoming weary and discouraged

XI. Resisting Sin (Hebrews 12:4)

- A. "Not yet resisted to bloodshed"
- B. Implication of harder times ahead

XII. Forgotten Exhortation (Hebrews 12:5)

- A. Quoting Proverbs 3:11-12
- B. Suffering as chastening, not punishment
- C. Difference between punishment (judge) and chastening (father)
- D. Danger of bitterness vs. trusting God
- E. Discouragement's effects
- F. Encouragement from Scripture (Romans 8)

XIII. God Chastens Those He Loves (Hebrews 12:6)

- A. Not a popular verse (Prov 3:6)
- B. False teachings about prosperity
- C. Chastening as evidence of love
- D. Purpose: maturity, not spoiled children

XIV. Enduring Chastening (Hebrews 12:7-8)

- A. God deals with us as sons
- B. Without chastening, we are illegitimate

XV. How God Disciplines

- A. Through conviction
- B. Through consequences of sin
- C. Through Scripture
- D. Through other believers
- E. Through suffering to produce endurance

XVI. What Discipline Is Not

- A. Not God rejecting us
- B. Not losing salvation
- C. Not satisfying God's wrath (finished at the cross)
- D. Purpose: correction and restoration

XVII. Respect for Discipline (Hebrews 12:9)

- A. Earthly fathers who corrected us
- B. Respect and obedience learned

XVIII. Paul's Example (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

- A. Thorn in the flesh
- B. To prevent pride
- C. God's grace sufficient
- D. Strength made perfect in weakness

XIX. Purpose of God's Chastening (Hebrews 12:10)

- A. For our profit
- B. To be partakers of His holiness
- C. Conforming to Christ's character
- D. Exposing areas needing correction
- E. David's example (Psalm 119:67)
- F. Humbling the proud

XX. The Result of Chastening (Hebrews 12:11)

- A. Not joyful but painful in the present
- B. Produces stronger character
- C. More righteous living
- D. Deeper faith in Christ

XXI. Discipline in the Home

- A. Parents' responsibility to discipline
- B. Lack of discipline in modern society
- C. Proverbs 13:24 - not sparing the rod
- D. Not abuse, but guidance
- E. Goal: growth, wisdom, righteousness, maturity

XXII. Training Through Discipline

- A. Benefits those who learn from it
- B. "Trained" - exercise, gymnasium
- C. Marathon training illustration
- D. Painful but produces spiritual maturity
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XXIII. Recognizing Discipline from the Lord

- A. Persistent convictions about attitude or behavior
- B. Consequences exposing emptiness of sin
- C. Rebuke from another believer
- D. Long-term "thorn in the flesh"
- E. Questions to ask:
 - 1. Is there clear sin I'm refusing to repent of?
 - 2. What might God be training in me?
 - 3. How can I respond in faith today?

XXIV. Conclusion: Not Every Trial is Punishment

- A. Every trial is opportunity for growth
- B. Jesus endured hostility (Hebrews 12:3)
- C. Jesus willing to forgive those who repent
- D. Don't become weary and discouraged