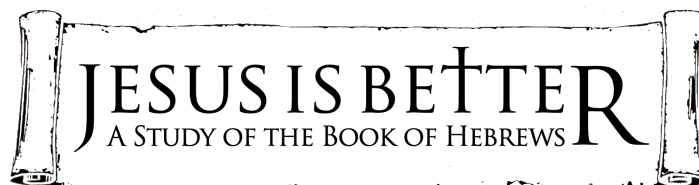


20: **Disciplined Children** (Heb 12:3-11)

Good parents discipline their children, correcting disobedience and training them to make wise decisions in the future. So too, God disciplines His children to know and grow in holiness, for this life and the life to come.



teachingnotes

Follow today's teaching notes, Scripture passages & more with your digital device (**wi-fi: Worship Center Guest**).

1. **Open phone camera** and zoom in on the **QR code pic to the right**. **OPEN** our VISUAL NOTES.
2. Access PDF notes to teachings from: **bit.ly/PDFNotes**
3. Watch **FB Live & see teaching notes** on our FB page: **facebook.com/fellowshipofmadison**
4. Check out our webpage: **FOM.life** (including over 400 teachings - audio & video).



* Bible Translation: **CSB** (Christian Standard Bible)

CATCH THE CONTEXT

We were reminded to keep our **Eyes on the PRIZE** - the Lord Jesus - the One who **endured the cross** to pay for our sin, Who stands at the finish line - to give us the crown of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:1b-2 (CSB)

Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, **keeping our eyes on Jesus**, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (CSB) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. There is reserved for me the **crown of righteousness**, which **the Lord**, the righteous Judge, **will give me on that day**, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved his appearing.

Today's Teaching

The author knows his Hebrew audience is struggling. Some are facing pressure from Jewish family & friends while others are facing persecution from enemies who want to destroy them. But rather than cower and compromise, the author reminds them to FOLLOW THE LEADER.

Hebrews 12:3-4 (CSB)

For **consider Him** who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, **so that you won't grow weary and give up**. In struggling against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Consider Him - what Jesus went through for us - made fun of, spit on, beaten in the face, beaten over the head with a stick, scourged, and led to be crucified on a Roman cross.

- Since Jesus was treated with such **hostility from sinners** who refused to listen to His message, then we shouldn't think it strange when people treat us poorly. Like us, while this ancient audience had **not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood**, they were emotionally fatigued and tempted to quit the race.

❓ **Have YOU ever felt that way?**

When we **grow weary** and want to **give up**, we must remember that Jesus didn't. *Remember Gethsemane?*

- Jesus didn't stop seeking the Father. He prayed and asked to be delivered, but wanted the Father's will be done.
- Jesus also asked His closest friends to *join Him* in prayer.
- And then He **endured** the harsh treatment from others because He trusted the Father's plan.

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

Disciplined Children

Hebrews 12:5-6 (CSB)

And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as **sons**: *My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly or lose heart when you are reprovved by Him, for **the Lord disciplines the one He loves and punishes every son He receives.*** [Prov 3:11-12 LXX]

- One of the greatest evidences of being a child of our Heavenly Father is His willingness to **reprove** you - to confront and correct your bad behavior. God doesn't discipline and punish to harm, but to help you. **The Lord disciplines the one He loves.**

❓ **When you sin, does God confront and correct you quickly?** Or can you continue to wallow in your sin without a sense of conviction and need to turn back?

While our Heavenly Father will discipline our disobedience, sometimes He allows the difficult days to shape us into disciplined disciples. These are those moments when our prayer might go something like this:

"Father, why would you let this happen to me? I'm trying to obey You in every area of my life. So, why would you let me suffer like this?"

Why do God's Children Suffer?

Hebrews 12:7-8 (CSB)

Endure suffering as discipline: **God is dealing with you as sons.** For what son is there that a father does not discipline? But **if you are without discipline**—which all receive—then you are illegitimate children and **not sons.**

When were the times you've grown the most? During the easy times or the difficult days? When have you been SEEKING and SENSING God's Presence stronger than ever before?

🌟 **Authors of The Good Book:** "When you encounter your next difficult season, resist the urge to pray, God, get me out of this! Instead, choose to pray, **God, what do you want me to get out of this?**"¹

Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons.

❓ If God is NOT confronting and correcting your sin, nor using the suffering in your life to grow you into a disciplined child, then you AREN'T His child. Bow your heart, turn from your sin, and ask God to adopt you into His family and make you HIS CHILD.

➡ **Discipline** is used **8 times** in this short stretch from verse 5 through verse 11. God is serious about correcting and growing His children to maturity.

❓ **How serious are YOU about growing in your faith?**

Trusting Our Father's Discipline

Hebrews 12:9-10 (CSB)

Furthermore, we had human fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live? For they **disciplined us** for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but **He does it for our benefit, so that we can share His holiness.**

Many of us appreciate our fathers' discipline NOW, even though there was a time we did NOT. We recognize our fathers knew better than we did, that they disciplined us for our future good, not to harm - but to help.

If we respect our fallible earthly fathers' intentions - that they disciplined us with our best interest in mind, **shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live?** Our heavenly Father disciplines us **for our benefit, so that we can share in His holiness** - both on this side of eternity & the other!

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

¹ Deron Spoo, Kyle Idleman. *The Good Book*, Kindle location 4537.

The End Result of Discipline

Hebrews 12:11 (CSB)

No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, **it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.

- The **discipline** of sports practice isn't enjoyable at the time, but the end result is worth it - able compete in games.
- The discipline of doctor's visits, surgery, medicine, & physical therapy are not enjoyable at the time and are often **painful**. But the end result is worth it - physical health!

The final result of discipline for the disciple of Jesus is **the peaceful fruit of righteousness**.

God's Disciplined Children grow in:

- **Purity & Character** - We stop living in sin and become known as people of integrity who can be trusted.
- **Endurance & Eternal Focus** - We make the right decisions in light of **eternity** rather than living for the immediate. Our focus shifts from from temporary relief to eternal satisfaction. We come to keep our eyes on Jesus and follow His lead to **endure** during tough times.
- **Love for God & People** - We learn to trust God through it all, confident that He loves us and wanting to love Him back. The overflow of loving God is that we love people made in His image, becoming more compassionate & patient in sharing and caring for others.

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

FEET 2 FAITH

1. **Respond to God's discipline when you disobey.** Your Father loves you and wants you to protect you & direct you.
2. **Endure the tough times, knowing God loves you and asking other believers to help you.**
3. **GROW in righteousness and take the hope of Jesus to those who are hopeless.**

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (850-673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (850-464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).