

Even When it Gets Hard

Pastor Jarvis Henderson

I. Introduction

- a. Life can be challenging, especially when we are Christians.
- b. But like Jesus, we can continue on, even when it gets hard.

John 15:19 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 15:13 New King James Version (NKJV)

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

In this not only is God saying that he loves use he is calling us his friends

II. Hard Choices

- a. It can be difficult at time to do the following.
 - i. Trust God or others after being hurt or doing something unfamiliar.
 - ii. Get over or forgive an offensive thing that you experienced from someone.
 - iii. To give on a limited income.
 - iv. To accept the loss of a loved one.
- b. However, nothing is as difficult as what Christ had to endure for us on the cross.

Luke 22:39-44

³⁹ Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. ⁴⁰ When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

⁴¹ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

III. The Mentalities of Those who Give Up

- a. "I can't do it."
 - i. These people give up at the sight of a challenge.
- b. "I'm good"
 - i. These people are satisfied with how things are without change.
- c. "I'm afraid."
 - i. These people lack self confidence and do not believe in their ability to succeed.

1 John 4:4 NLT

⁴ But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

- d. "I don't see it."
 - i. These people give up when they do not see immediate results.

1 Kings 18:44 NIV

⁴³ "Go and look toward the sea," he told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." ⁴⁴ The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea."

- e. "It's not mine."
 - i. These people do not take ownership of anything they didn't think of themselves.

Habakkuk 2:2-3

² Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision
And make *it* plain on tablets,
That he may run who reads it.
³ For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time;
But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.

- f. "No Change"
 - i. These people do not like change because it's uncomfortable.

Luke 22:41-44

⁴¹ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 22:44

⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- IV. How to Overcome when it Difficult
 - a. Understand the level of God's love for us.
 - b. Remember that God gave us the ability to endure the temptations that come.
 - c. Make a conscious decision to live a selfless life and not a selfish one.
 - d. Focus on God's promises instead of the lies of the enemy.
 - e. Remember that nothing is too hard for the Lord.

Job 13:15-16 New International Version (NIV)

- ¹⁵ Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;
I will surely ¹⁶ defend my ways to his face.
- ¹⁶ Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance,
for no godless person would dare come before him!

