



Sermon Title: Stay Focused

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer, August 29, 2021

Hebrews 12:1–3

The Big Idea: Trust Jesus to lead you to your destination.

Doing that requires three actions.

Action #1: Move forward

Two words to notice in **Hebrews 12:1**: The first is **RUN**. That indicates **movement**. Don't stand still too long. Do **something**. The second word "**marked out**." It's not a course you independently chart. It's marked out by someone else... the **Lord**.

To discern the course, here are 3 "asks" to make.

1. **Ask the Lord. (Pray) James 1:5**
2. **Ask Others. (Wise counsel) Proverbs 15:22**
3. **Ask Yourself. (Am I willing to trust God?) Proverbs 3:5–6**

Then write down the answer to a question: "**What is God leading me to do?**" Write out the big idea of what God has marked out. [Journal; Bible; notebook] Trust Him. And move forward.

Action #2: Eliminate the Non-Essentials

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) ^{1b} Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

A problem arises when amenities crowd out the essential. That's why Paul urges the Philippian believers in **Phillippians 1:10**

If you're serious about moving forward with Jesus, you need to:
Inventory Your Entanglements (Stuff that holds you back)

- Actions (habits)
- Attitudes (state of mind)
- Affections (my "loves")

Then classify them according to...

- Energizers (what is life-giving and encourages me)
- Distractions (what slows me down; blurs my focus)

- Disqualifiers (could knock me out of the race)

Label your inventory accordingly. Cut out the non-essentials, and build on your “energizers.” Your energizers should include leisure time, solitude and reflection, a regular “sabbath” for worship and rest.

Action #3: Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV) ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Fixing our eyes = “to direct one’s attention without distraction.” Don’t fix your eyes on any person other than Jesus.

Fortunately, when flawed people trust God, as Hebrews 11:34 says, “[their] weakness [is] turned to strength.” It’s appropriate to encourage faithful people. But don’t idealize them.

Don’t be distracted by his flaws - fix your eyes on Jesus. And the result will be that you will be part of a great cloud of witnesses. **Hebrews 12:1–2**

That’s your calling: to be part of a great cloud of faithful witnesses. Imperfect people committed to one another out of love for Christ. A people who will not forsake the assembling of themselves together, but who will come together weekly in order spur one another on and encourage one another to greater faithfulness.

We are a fellowship of the flawed, led by imperfect leaders. A great cloud of witnesses who sometimes march, and sometimes limp toward glory. But we are all blood relatives of one Body.

Trust Jesus to lead you to your destination.

Determine to: move forward on mission, eliminate the non-essentials, and fix your eyes on Jesus. He will get you where you’re supposed to be.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What does it mean to trust God? Are there any times or situations in your life where you have trouble trusting God? What can God do to make you trust Him?**
- **What would you say to people who have difficulty trusting Jesus to lead them to their destination?**
- **What is the danger in idolizing a faithful servant of God?**
- **What are the non-essentials in your life that you need to let go of? [Sports, kids' extracurricular activities that run you ragged, social media, living for the weekend]**