

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Expect to Sweat

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
January 22, 2023



What do we need to know about the journey with Jesus?

- **The way is narrow.**

Matthew 7:13-14 (NLT) “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way.¹⁴ But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.”

- **The journey is hard.**

John 16:31-33 (NLT) Jesus asked, “Do you finally believe?³² But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

- **The struggles we endure have a greater purpose.**

James 1:2-4 (NLT) “Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.”

“If it doesn’t challenge you, it won’t change you.” Spartan Race

- **Our challenges are preparing us for eternity.**

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT) “For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!¹⁸ So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.”

- **The reward is glorious!**

Revelation 21:3-7 (NLT) I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.”⁶ And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life.⁷ All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

Hebrews 10:35-36 (NLT) “So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you!³⁶ Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.”

Big Idea: The finale is worth the fight so choose the Way of Jesus.

John 14:6 (NLT) Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Preparing for the Journey
#3 of 5 - January 22, 2023

- 1) Last week we talked about “packing smart” on our journey with Jesus focusing on Romans 12:12. What did you hear or sense God saying to you this week about hope, patience, and prayer?
- 2) Think about a challenge that you are currently facing in life. Share it with the group if you feel comfortable doing so. Keep this in mind as you approach Scripture asking God to speak to you.
- 3) Read Matthew 7:13-14 & John 16:31-33. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about these passages? What images does Jesus use to help us understand the conditions of discipleship?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does it mean for us as we seek to be disciples of Christ? How does this challenge or encourage you as you seek to follow “the way of Jesus”?
- 6) Read James 1:2-4 and 2 Cor. 4:17-18. What do these passages tell us about our trials?
- 7) Read Revelation 21:3-7. How does this passage give us perspective and hope for the journey?
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What specific action step is God asking you to take in light of this teaching?
- 9) How did this study give you perspective on your current challenge?



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Preparing for the Journey
#3 of 5 - January 22, 2023

- 1) Last week we talked about “packing smart” on our journey with Jesus focusing on Romans 12:12. What did you hear or sense God saying to you this week about hope, patience, and prayer?
- 2) Think about a challenge that you are currently facing in life. Share it with the group if you feel comfortable doing so. Keep this in mind as you approach Scripture asking God to speak to you.
- 3) Read Matthew 7:13-14 & John 16:31-33. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about these passages? What images does Jesus use to help us understand the conditions of discipleship?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does it mean for us as we seek to be disciples of Christ? How does this challenge or encourage you as you seek to follow “the way of Jesus”?
- 6) Read James 1:2-4 and 2 Cor. 4:17-18. What do these passages tell us about our trials?
- 7) Read Revelation 21:3-7. How does this passage give us perspective and hope for the journey?
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What specific action step is God asking you to take in light of this teaching?
- 9) How did this study give you perspective on your current challenge?