

#### **TEXT SUMMARY**

In our text, <u>Hebrews 12:1-3</u>, the writer urges his readers, in light of the many examples of faith he has summarized (ch 11), to rid themselves of entangling sin and set themselves to run their course with perseverance. As the ultimate example of perseverance, the writer points to Jesus, the One who authored and will bring to conclusion our faith.

### INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. The "therefore" at the beginning of v. 1 functions as a giant hinge, connecting one large body of truth to another body of truth.
  - "Therefore" isn't the only conjunction used to connect ideas. How does "therefore" function differently than "and" (which also connects ideas)?
  - What two ideas does "therefore" connect?
- 2. Following the "therefore," there are three exhortations and one participle ("-ing" word). What are they?

## **DISCUSSION** (INTERPRETATION):

The writer points to two opposite sensations Jesus experienced in the Cross: the shame involved in crucifixion, along with "the joy that was set before Him" (v. 2). Everyone in the Greco-Roman world knew that crucifixion involved not just intense physical agony but also gross public humiliation. Yet Jesus endured the shame because He could envision the joy.

What was the joy that carried Jesus through such a horrific ordeal?

# DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



#### SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- 1. Verse 1 urges us to lay aside not only "every weight" but also "the sin that so easily entangles." This is the language of renunciation. There is nothing timid or tentative about this; it is warfare.
  - The text says "every weight," not just one.
    - What are some of your "weights" that hinder your spiritual growth and progress?
    - What would it take for you to lay those things aside?
  - Each of us knows our own "entangling" sins, the vices that always beckon and prey on our weaknesses. Jesus used the hyperbolic language of self-mutilation to show how ruthless we must be with temptation and sin (Matt 5:27-30).
    - What are your entangling sins? Sexual temptation is always present in a highly eroticized culture like ours, but other candidates claim a place; for many people, it is bitterness about past wrongs.
    - What would it take for you to cut yourself off from that temptation? (What relationships would you need to cut off? ...apps you need to delete from your phone? ...sins you need to confess?)
- 2. What does it mean to "consider" Jesus? The writer clearly has in mind the sufferings of Jesus. You can "consider" the sufferings of Christ by reading slowly, thoughtfully, prayerfully through one of the Gospel accounts of the events of that dark day, stopping often to speak to Him, thanking Him for His endurance on your behalf. (Matt 26:36-27:50 is one such account.)