

“Doing Mission ...When the Mission Seems Unusually Hard”

Hebrews 12:1-2

March 27, 2022

INTRO ...Caught Up in a Great Mission!

...Peter ...James ...John ...Paul

... Today, we're taking a moment to Remind Ourselves of THIS MISSION that We Are STILL ON!

Our Mission Date is 2022 in North America!
...Our Moment is a

...How to do mission when the mission seems unusually hard?

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- **Calling Witnesses** ...To Inform Them that They are Still In-Bounds!
 - The Story of These Witnesses ...in the Previous Verses

Heb 11:32-40 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.

³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword.

They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

- The History of Hard
 - 2nd & 3rd Century Heresy; Medieval Dark Ages; the Times Preceding the Reformation! World Missions in New Locations!

Before departing for Burma at twenty-four, Adoniram Judson's "deep conviction . . . to engage in this [missionary] service" was to be "devoted to this work for life, whenever God in His providence shall open the way."¹ His convictions were tested for thirty-eight years in Burma, through the loss of two wives, seven of thirteen children, and terrible sickness at sea that led to his death. In the face of constant persecution and imprisonment, he not only finished a Burmese-English dictionary and grammar but also translated the entire New Testament into Burmese. After ten years, he had one church of eighteen believers." **G.K. Beale & Mitchell Kim**, *God Dwells Among Us*, p. 1

- Church Culture changes in Europe;
Church culture changes in America
- The Ultimate Witness — Jesus!

- ***"Let Us Also" ...***
 - (1) ***LAY ASIDE Weights, sins, and entanglements***
 - Hard Moments are NOT the time for Unnecessary and Non-primary Weights to be Carried.
 - Hard Moments can be a Petrie Dish for Bacterial Sin to Bloom!
 - An Endurance Race requires some since of MINIMIZING Unnecessary Loads!

 - (2) ***RUN—with ENDURANCE ...***
 - Hard Moments are still moments in which WE KEEP RUNNING.
 - This Moment of Running FEELS a particular way—it doesn't feel like the starting steps or the race we dreamed of

 - (3) ***LOOK to Jesus***
 - Hard Times Naturally Pull our Attention to the Hard Things in this Moment!
 - Hard Times in Our Day are FILLED with Human Commentators and Protestors!

*... When Jesus encountered
HARD—He had his
commentators!*

*... When Jesus encountered
Hard—He Looked to His
Father!*

The Writer of Hebrews Speaks to their "Hard Moment" in this way at the beginning of Heb. 12 ...then he concludes the chapter with this awareness:

Heb 12:25-29 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

- ***Times of "SHAKING" have "Human Explanations" that are Rooted in Divine Sovereignty ...Things Shake for Human & Divine Reasons Simultaneously***
- Knowing THAT ...provides an opportunity in these times for ...GRATITUDE (v. 28) ...CONFIDENCE & COURAGE (“a Kingdom that cannot be shaken”) ...WORSHIP (v. 28-29)