

# GREATER THAN

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

HEBREWS

12:1-17

## FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

**1**Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2**fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**3**For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**4**You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; **5**and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

**6**FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

**7**It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? **8**But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate

children and not sons. **9**Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? **10**For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. **11**All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

**12**Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, **13**and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

**14**Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. **15**See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; **16**that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. **17**For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

# DIGGING IN

Read Hebrews 12:1-17

## DISCUSS

What is the “therefore” there for?

Explain the phrase “we have so great a cloud of witnesses.” Who are they? Are they watching us?

What is the difference between an encumbrance and sin? What kinds of things could be encumbrances, but perhaps not sin?

What impression do you have of the word “entangle?”

How does sin slow us down?

What is the race that we are in? What does it mean that this race is “set before us?”

What kind of race needs endurance?

How can we fix our eyes on Jesus?

What does it mean that He is the “author” of our faith? How about “perfector?”

What do you think was the joy that was set before Him?

How does considering the persecution Jesus faced help us not to grow weary?

What does verse 4 mean?

Why does God discipline His sons? What is the purpose? What does this teach us about the nature of discipline?

In what ways might God discipline us? If we suffer trials or hardships, does that mean we are being disciplined? How can we discern whether a specific circumstance is discipline or not?

Can you think of any people in the Bible who experienced discipline from the Lord?

What does 7b imply about the father/son relationship?

How should we respond to discipline?

Since fathers discipline according to what they think is “best,” how can a father have true discernment about this issue?

What applications does this passage have for parents? How about for children? How about for believers?