



Look Unto Jesus
Heb. 12:1-2
April 4, 2026
Bushawn Carpenter

I. Intro

A. Text: **Heb. 12:1-2**

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares [us], and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:1-2)

B. Reminder

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares [us], and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Heb. 12:1)

1. We have a great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us.
 - a. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Samson, David...

C. Instruction

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares [us], and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Heb. 12:1)

1. Let it go.
 - a. Sin
 - b. Weights
2. Let's run on.
 - a. That thing that has hindered you...

II. Body

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2)

A. Look Unto Jesus

1. Our faith is not self-generated.
 - a. It was given.
 - b. Jesus is Creator and Redeemer
 - c. He was and is to come.
 - d. He has always been and always will be.
2. Look At Him!

Looking (aphorao #872): *to turn the eyes away from other things in order to fix them on something.*

- a. **apo** (separation, away, out of)
 - b. **horao** (To see with the eyes and mind. To stare at intently. To become acquainted by experience).
 - c. There are some things that we have all around us that we've been called to turn our eyes away from.
 - d. Jesus is worthy!
3. You might find yourself in the most challenging season of your life.
 - a. My message to you is simple: Look at Jesus!

B. Jesus Looked Unto Joy

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2)

1. Jesus looked away from all of the things that could potentially sidetrack Him, and fixed His eyes on the Joy SET before Him.
2. Jesus' Joy:
 - a. Giving His Father glory and Honor.
 - b. Bringing Himself glory.
 - c. Accomplishing His Father's plan of redemption.
3. Jesus acknowledged all the temporary circumstances that He had to endure, but He didn't fix His gaze there.

-
- a. He fully understood the humiliation of stepping away from the pleasures on the throne, taking on the form of a bondservant.
 - b. Jesus the Creator of heaven and earth, made Himself low when He placed Himself inside the belly of a woman He created.
 - c. Endured the ridicule of living as a common man for 33 years.
 - d. Lived from pillar to post.
4. After 33 years of disrespect and dishonor, it got worse.
- a. Jesus was arrested on a Thursday night like a common criminal.
 - b. Interrogated under torture all night long.
 - c. Endured the injustice of trial in the middle of the night (in secret, in solitude).
 - d. The Just One was declared guilty.
 - e. Sentenced to death by public humiliation.
 - f. Forced to carry the very object designed to kill Him.
 - g. Nailed to that wooden execution instrument.
 - h. Stripped naked and exposed for all the public to see.
 - i. Mocked and made fun of as He fought to raise Himself to take a breath.
 - j. Drowned from the fluid that filled His lungs from the inside.
 - k. Didn't even have the dignity of a proper burial.
 - l. Thrown into a donated tomb in haste.
5. Jesus: Future Joy Superseded Current Suffering.
- a. He looked onto the Joy that Was Set Before Him.
 - b. He looked away from the humiliation of the cross.
 - c. He endured the shame associated with God becoming a man.
 - d. He suffered hunger and homelessness, disrespect and dishonor.
 - e. But He looked not on that which was temporary.

C. Jesus Landed into His Rightful Place

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2)

1. After parts of 3 days, the one who submitted to shame and humiliation, broke the back of all shame and humiliation.
 - a. Although He could've have done it by His own strength...
 - b. Although He could've called 10,000 angels to get Him off that cross...
 - c. He relied on the Spirit of God quicken Him..., awarding Jesus as the victor over humiliation/injustice of death.
2. He rose with the keys of death, hell, and the grave.
 - a. Setting captives free (left and right).
 - b. Whoever calls on His name, He saves/sets free.
 - c. And he who the Son sets free...
3. Not only did He rise from the dead, but He rose into the heavens to take that which rightfully belongs to Him.
 - a. Sat in the seat on the right hand of the Father.
 - b. Jesus sat down in the seat of honor, power, and authority.
4. Jesus was always the darling of Heaven (eternity past).
 - a. But for 33 years, He suspended His immense privileges... with the endgame in mind.

III. Conclusion

- A. Jesus Looked to the Joy Set Before Him. You do the same.
 1. Jesus is the Object of our Joy.
 2. Look unto Jesus.
 - 3.