

Enduring Faith part 2

Pastor Gilbert Silva - 9/17/23

Hebrews 12:3 (NKJV) For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Jesus is the ultimate example of what it is to endure through difficult time. He faced one the worst storm imaginable to man, death by crucifixion.

Endure - To suffer something painful or difficult with patience. To remain firm under suffering or misfortune without yielding. To bear bravely and calmly: ill treatments

The writer of Hebrews tells us that we are to run the race that has been assigned to us by considering the race that Jesus ran.

There are several things about the race that Jesus ran that will keep us from becoming weary or discouraged in our souls.

Consider - contemplate, to think over, ponder

Consider His race - it wasn't an easy race. after everything he had done to bless people throughout his earthly ministry as he arrived to the end of his race or entered the final round of earthly life and ultimate mission, the track around him was filled with hatred, bitterness, opposition and people shouting for his death.

Yet in the midst of all of this he didn't quit. His race was a perfect example of how a race should be run. He never lost sight of the goal, He never quit, he didn't stop running until the race was finished. (John 19:30)

The next time you feel like quitting, consider, think about how Jesus never quit. He kept driving on even when the storm was at its worst.

Consider his reason - the scriptures tell us that there was a reason why Jesus ran.

Hebrews 12:2b (NLT) Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame.

There was no joy in being crucified, there was no joy in dying like a common criminal nor was there joy in being hated and rejected by people He loved.

The joy that the writer described was not in the storm but because of the storm. It was not the suffering that brought joy but the outcome of the suffering. Jesus was able to look past the cross into the future.

The outcome of His redemptive work would result in:

- The day that salvation would be complete, sin and death would be conquered.
- The salvation of those who would place their faith in Him.
- Access to the Father's throne by the new and living way. (Hebrews 4:
- Ultimately a new heaven and a new earth where sin and death are forever destroyed, Satan is abolished forever and perfect holiness will rule in every heart.

This is why Jesus ran and pressed through the storm. He didn't think about Himself but on those who would benefit from His going through this storm.

Consider His reward - Jesus knew what his reward would be. He knew where he was headed.

Hebrews 12:2c (NLT) Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Jesus ran well. He pressed through the storm and when He finished he sat down with the Father in His throne.

Jesus knew where he was headed.

John 17:1-5 (NLT) After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. ²For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. ³And this is the way to have eternal life, to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. ⁴I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

The same is true for us. No matter what storms we face. No matter what race is set before us we will not quit because we know where we're headed.

John 14:1-3 (NLT) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ²There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

The race is more bearable when we knew what the reward is in the end.

Consider His resolve - Jesus didn't make excuses. From early on he had to face many obstacles.

Here are a few:

- He was born in stable (Luke 2:7)
- He was raised in a poor family (Luke 2:24)
- He lived in a despicable town (Luke 2:39)
- His life as a baby was threatened by a king (Matthew 2:13)
- His earthly father died when he was young
- He was hated and opposed by others (Mark 14:1-2)
- He was accused of being insane or possessed by demons (Mark 3:21-22)
- He was opposed by many in His own family (Mark 14:1-2)
- He was betrayed by a close friend (Mark 14:10-11, 18)
- He left alone and forsaken by the rest of His friends (Mark 14:50)
- He was falsely accused with treason and tried before the high court of the land and sentenced to die by crucifixion. (John 18)

Have we ever suffered to this degree? I sure we haven't.

He endured until the end so that we might be saved. He stands as our ultimate example.

Hebrews 12:3 (NLT) Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.