

Hebrews (April 25, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 12:1-13

1. Note the analogy used in Hebrews 12:1 of the believer's life to that of an athletic event. What exhortations are given to run the race with endurance? Give examples of the types of hindrances one might face and how to lay them aside.

2. Who are the "cloud of witnesses" and in what way(s) are they witnesses?

3. According to Hebrews 12:2, who should believers look to and why in order to run this race? From the examples of Stephen (Acts 7:54-60) and Peter (Matthew 14:28-33) what do you learn?

4. Describe the things revealed about Jesus in Hebrews 12:2-3. How does knowing these things impact you regarding your participation in this "race"?

5. Compare the earthy father-child relationship to the relationship believers have with their Heavenly Father from this passage.

6. Read Hebrews 12:5-11; Psalm 119:67, 71; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 and describe the benefits of discipline uncovered?

7. “The person who accepts discipline at the hand of God as something designed by his heavenly Father for his good will cease to feel resentful and rebellious; he has ‘calmed and quieted’ his soul, which thus *provides fertile soil for the cultivation of a righteous life, responsive to the will of God.*” (The Epistle to the Hebrews p. 346 by F.F. Bruce)

How does this quote and Romans 8:28-30 bring clarity to Hebrews 12:11?

8. “The descriptive phrases ‘drooping hands and weakened knees’ evoke the picture of a person thoroughly exhausted and discouraged...If those who are stronger will move in a straight direction toward the goal, the brother or sister who is lame will follow more easily and will be healed of his hurt.” (47B Word Biblical Commentary pgs. 426, 428 by William L. Lane)

Read Hebrews 12:12-13; Proverbs 4:25-27; Isaiah 35:3-4 to ascertain believers’ accountabilities both individually and communally in “the race that is set before us.”