

Hebrews 12:1-4 - The Race of Faith

April 14, 2024 - Pastor Jarrod Stueve

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Hebrews 6:11-12; 11:35-38 1 Samuel 15:13, 20-21; 18:10-11
Luke 10:39-42 John 21:18-19, 22 Philippians 2:12-13
John 6:38 Mark 14:36 Luke 23:46
Hebrews 5:7-8 NLT Luke 22:44 Matthew 27:46
John 10:27-28 Philippians 1:6

- Faith doesn't make our life _____, - it makes it

How to Run the Race of Faith:

- Lay aside every _____, which _____
 - Call _____ "_____"
 - Stop giving it opportunity to _____
- Lay aside every _____
- Run with _____
- Run _____ race.
- _____ to Jesus.

Why? Because...

- He is the _____ and _____ of our faith.
- He is our perfect _____
- If we forget His _____, we'll grow _____

- Faith means trusting God enough to _____

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- Faith doesn't make our life EASIER, - it makes it

ETERNAL

How to Run the Race of Faith:

- Lay aside every SIN, which ENSNARES
 - Call SIN "SIN"
 - Stop giving it opportunity to BREATHE
- Lay aside every WEIGHT
- Run with ENDURANCE
- Run YOUR OWN race.
- LOOKING to Jesus.

Why? Because...

- He is the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our faith. *Bonus: Because Jesus is the One who gives us the DESIRE and the ABILITY to follow Him!*
- He is our perfect EXAMPLE
- If we forget His SUFFERING, we'll grow WEARY

- Faith means trusting God enough to OBEY HIM

GET PRACTICAL

- 6) Which of the following “weights” are you most tempted to be burdened or distracted by in your race of faith?
- Entertainment or hobbies
 - Work or career
 - Relationships
 - Health or appearance
 - Ministry
 - Social Media or technology
 - Other: _____

What is one or two things you can do this week to “lay aside” this weight or put it back in it’s correct place (where it’s no longer an idol or distraction)?

- 7) God calls us to live differently as Christians. What are some ways your “race” looks differently than that of a non-Christian?
- 8) What do you most need to remember or apply from this week’s message or homework?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of April 14, 2024

MY STORY

- 1) Share a quick personal story somehow related to a race.
- 2) Can you think of a time when you thought you needed to throw aside a “weight” that was holding you back in your relationship with Jesus? If so, what happened? Were you glad of your decision? Why or why not?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Looking back at Hebrews 12:1-4 and your notes from this Sunday’s message, what stood out to you or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) What stands out to you from each of the following passages? What questions do you have?

Acts 20:22-24 - “[22] *And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, [23] except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. [24] But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*”

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - "[24] Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. [25] And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. [26] Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. [27] But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

Philippians 2:16 - "holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain."

Philippians 3:10-14 - "[10] that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, [11] if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. [12] Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. [13] Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, [14] I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 4:7 - "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Which of the above passages means the most to you? Why?

Paul wrote each of these passages. What tips can we glean from him in how we can run the "race of faith"?

5) What stands out to you from the following passage?
Mark 4:35-41 - "[35] On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." [36] Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. [37] And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. [38] But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" [39] Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. [40] But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" [41] And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!""

Why do you think the disciples were afraid?

Why did Jesus rebuke them?

Before waking Jesus, what or whom were the disciples trusting in to stay alive?

What did Jesus say in verse 35, and why is this significant?

In what way(s) can you relate to the disciples?

What lesson(s) do you learn from this passage?