

Sermon series: *Reminders for a Hard Season*

6/25/23 “Going On When It Gets Hard,” Hebrews 12, NLT

INTRODUCTION roguing corn (7-8 begin, 4 finish...lunch, water)

Asa: removed idolatry, urged people to worship God; vs. million man army, God helped, BUT 36 into reign sought foreign help; when rebuked, imprisoned prophet Hanani, oppressed people; diseased feet, didn't seek God but doctors; died in 41st year of reign

MAIN IDEA: Work to finish well with Jesus. How? Here are four things to do.

I. First, fix our eyes on Jesus, our champion (1-4, 2)

A. finding motivation from crowd of witnesses (martyrs)

1. they ran for Him
2. the finished well

B. throwing off every sin

Weight: impediment, hindrance; —our most troublesome, sidetracking sins —Fire Bible

C. following His example of running with endurance (persistent patience)

1. looking ahead to the joy to come
2. disregarding shame here
3. enduring hostility

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, remember God's encouraging words (5 -11)

A. "My child"... dearly loved, unconditionally, kindly

Prov. 3:11-12, NLT: My child, don't reject the LORD's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. ¹² For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

B. so we don't make light of His discipline (5)

Discipline: instruction, education, training up

Light: neglect, to consider of small worth

1. don't give up, ignore, or rebel against it
2. painful but valuable...helps us share His holiness, gives us a peaceful harvest of right living

ILLUSTRATION: my friend

III. Third, make a conscious effort to “pull it together” (12-13)

A. *taking a new grip with our tired hands*...do it again... obey, repent, pray, read Bible, worship, fellowship

B. *strengthen our weak knees*...mindful of our temptations, repent of sinful habits, discouragement, anger/frustration

Strengthen: to make whole, free from errors and sins

C. *mark out a straight path*...time, activities to avoid temptations, keep disciplines... for ourselves & others

ILLUSTRATION: brother j.

IV. Finally, listen to God (14-28, 25)

A. work at living at peace with all...as we can (Rom 12:18)

B. work at living a holy life, without which will not see God...obeying; confessing, repenting, renouncing

C. Look after each other (echoing Hebrews 10:25)

1. watch out for bitterness
2. make sure no one is immoral or godless

D. because we have come to Zion, to His home...where the witnesses & Jesus live now...or be judged

ILLUSTRATION: Moses, L

CONCLUSION: How we finish determines our home & God's dealing with us—as a child of His or as a rebel.

Manasseh vs. Joash, Uzziah/Azariah (leprosy)

Demas loved the world after serving with Paul (2Tim. 4)

How will you end? (only God knows our time of departure)

ALTAR: Need to fix eyes, remember, regroup, listen? Repent?
