

Title: Consider Jesus!

Text: Hebrews 12:3-4

Turn in your Bibles to the Book of Hebrews chapter 12. Hebrews chapter 12 beginning at Vs 1. *Notes & outline*

We are looking at the Christian life. And the answers to the problems and pressures that come our way in living the life that God would have us to live.

Last Sunday we looked at the first two verses of chapter 12. Today I want to look at Verses 3 and 4. But I want to begin reading at Vs 1. I want you to see the whole passage in perspective.

(Read Hebrews 12:1-4)

PRAYER.

As we begin, let me refresh your memories..... In Vs 1, Paul remains us of the importance of the O.T. examples. The great cloud of witnesses ~~is~~ *not* is surrounding us. I didn't really deal with this last Sunday, but the simple teaching is that "literally" we are surrounded by a great host of Saints. People who have lived for God....people who have served him.... many were martyred for their faith....And we are literally surrounded by this great host of witnesses... *It is a reminder, you see, that people have served faithfully before us*

Then we looked at the instruction given to us in order to live the Christian life...Three basic instructions.

(1) First, we are to lay aside everything in our life that would hinder us from serving Jesus Christ. We are to get all those weights and sins out of our life. It is our responsibility to do, if we really want victory over the pressures of life.

(2) Then secondly, we are to live this Christian life with patience. The word "patience" means "to bear up under"....

(3) And third, we are to fix our eyes on Jesus. When we get our eyes off of Jesus onto our problems or our pressures or circumstances, that is when we have defeat. So, we are to fix our eyes on Jesus who the author and perfecter of the faith.

() So, picking it up from here we want to look at the illustration from Christ's suffering. The illustration of Christ's suffering. The Bible says in Vs 3, "consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart."

Now, there are two things here that I want you to see.

(1) First of all, the responsibility we have according to Vs 3. Our responsibility is to "CONSIDER HIM." We are to consider Jesus. That is our responsibility.

The word "consider" simply means to "think up"...TO THINK UP...Man! I love that. The idea is to raise your thoughts...And man, let me tell you, this really blessed me...WOW!!!! God is asking us not to think down on our tails and circumstance...trying to get some hope in that direction...NO WAY! He wants us to "THINK UP" and consider Jesus who has already been through it all....

Col 3 tells us to set our minds and our affections on things above where Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God. OH, let me tell you, it is so easy to get discouraged, depressed and defeated, when you fix your mind and your eyes on things around you. ~~WAAAA~~ But, it is another thing to fix your eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of the faith. CONSIDER HIM...Left your eyes up and look at him...And the next time, you feel like you are under the pressure cooker, consider Jesusremember him....

It is when we lose sight of Jesus that we get ourselves into difficulties. And our problems seem to over whelm us.....THINK UP....THINK UP....

(2) And secondly, notice the manner in which Jesus suffered. Vs 3 tells us that "He endured such hostility by sinners against himself." The word "endure" is simply the word for "patience". And the word means "TO BEAR UP UNDER THE LOAD." We are to be patience. We are to bear up under. And the reason we can bear up under is because Jesus bore up under.

In Vs 2 we are reminded that He bore up under the cross. But here in Vs 3 it is a little different. It is the hostility of sinners against himself. These sinful people who were hostile towards Jesus who was sinless

As we might expect. The word "endured" is the same word translated "endured" in vs 2 and "patience" in Vs 1. The NAS translates the word "endurance" in Vs 1.

The word ^{endurance} means "to bear up under a load". Now, the Bible encourages us to "bear up under the load" of testing and suffering that we all go through. And now, it is telling us to ~~fix our eyes on~~ ^{consider} Jesus who also ^{bore} bears up under. I was reminded that He bore up under the cross, in Vs 2....But in Vs 3 it is a little different. It is the hostility of sinners against himself. The word "hostility" or "~~contradiction~~" (KJ) means "opposition or rebellion". And there was a rebellion of sinners against ^{Jesus} who was sinless.

You see, much of the time I am getting just what I deserve in my life. I am a sinner. ^{Unusually,} ~~Unless~~ I do get the product of my own sin, in terms of suffering and testing, ^{Now,} not that all suffering and testing is simply a product of sin because it is not. But even in my sins which I deserve, I deserve what I get...Yet, Christ received everything which he did not deserve. The hostility of sinners against himself. He who was not a sinner.

(Give personal example of putting finger in lawn mower. All the safety features, yet I still put finger in blade)

You see, life is ~~not~~ like that. We get what we ~~deserve~~ ^{deserve}. ~~Now~~ Now, that is an easy example to see. But if we could back up, there are roots and reasons why we are in the trouble and difficulty that we are in. But listen, don't make any mistake about this. GOD IS USING THAT TRAIL JUST AS MUCH AS GIVING YOU ~~SOMETHING YOU DON'T~~ ^{DO} DESERVE. Because God uses all of life experiences (good and bad).

But in the case of Christ, there is none of that. But he endured the hostility of sinful men simply because he loved us. Not because he deserved it in any way shape or form. [And so the Bible says, left your eyes up to Jesus next time you feel sorrow for yourself or you feel someone is taking advantage of you.... ^{Consider} ~~Fix your eyes on~~ Jesus,

~~Why not Jesus?~~
~~Consider Jesus?~~

(2E) Now, the reason for this is given at the end of Vs 3.

The responsibility is simple to consider Him. But the reason is stated in the last phrase of Vs 3. "So that you may not grow weary and lose heart." *That is why! That is why you are to consider Jesus*

Note, please, there are not two things here. The words "lose heart" or as it says in the KJ - "faint in your minds" is in the participle form and explains why you get weary. The reason why we have this instruction to left up our eyes to Jesus is so that we willn't get worn out because ~~we are~~ ^{we are} losing heart. *We will not ~~be~~ "burn out"*

SO Now, what is the point? The point is likened unto the runner of Vs 1-2.

You see, ^{one of} the dangers of a runner in a race is to get ahead and then relax. You find yourself in the led and there is a danger of relaxing or slowing up a little bit. And as a result of slowing up and thinking that you have it made, somebody else goes by you and you lose.

And that is the same illustration of Vs 3. Consider Jesus, who according to Vs 2, is the one we should fix our eyes on because he is the author and perfecter of ~~our~~ ^{the} faith, Keep you eyes on him in this race of life, Consider Him least you get tired from losing heart or giving up.

And the word "mind" means "heart" and it has the concept of just giving up. You know where depression, discouragement and defeat is?... Not in the body, not in the spirit, it is in your inter self...

According to this passage people give up within themselves and as a result they get weary in the battle of life.

So I learn a principle: as to the reason why I should keep my eyes on Jesus... Principle: Jesus never gave up. Even in the agony of the Garden, knowing ~~the~~ the suffering the cross would bring to him, he refused to give up. "Not my will but thine be done."

My problem is that inside, in the inter man, I give up.. I get ~~discouraged~~ discouraged, I get defeated, and I let all my problems overwhelm me...

and I let little things turn into big ones
Instead of fixing my eyes on Jesus; and remembering that, ~~that alone,~~

Considereing ^{Jesus} Christ, will stop me from getting weary or fainting in all the struggles of life... ~~And that is why I give up...~~ ^{It really will}

men, ^{let me tell you} hey, this ^{hey} tremendous practical application for everybodies life.

You see, the moment we get our eyes off Jesus, all the problems and pressures of life working on us continually causes us just to give up. Thus, we say it is not worth it. ^{I don't want to be involved}

People with drawal, they get depressed, they get discouraged, they get defeated. ^{hey stop coming to church} And the whole root issue is we have forgotten who we have set our eyes upon. Don't fix your eyes on your problems. Put them on Jesus. And learn from his example ^{of Christ suffering}

STOP

(3E) An then in Vs 4, we notice the resistance that Jesus experienced.

The point is to explain to us the great contrast there is between us and Jesus. Some times we get to thinking that no one has gone through what

(IF) I am going through...And yet Paul wrote, to these people, ^{Vs 4} "You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood, in your striving against sin."

The point is..to the point of death. The comparison to them is that you have not yet resist unto the shedding of blood. That means that non of the people to whom ^{we} had written were being martyred for their faith.) As a matter of fact when you reveiw the background of Hebrews, you will remember that one of the reasons this book was written is because the Jewish christians seeing the persecution that was coming to Gentile Christians didn't want to suffer with them. So, they were going to withdraw back to the safe haven of Judism...Because at the time Paul wrote Hebrews Judism was not under going persecution. So, they thought, we will withdrawal and not identify ourselves with the Christians.

And that is what this book is warning ^{us} people about. Don't do this...And here Paul is saying that non of you have resist ^{To the point of} ~~the~~ shedding

^{your} blood... So, why give up

They all got the point. Sure they had their troubles. But they got the point. You see, there were many Gentle Christians suffering and dying for their faith in Jesus. HAY! These Jewish Christiand got the message.

To us, the simple message is that we have not yet died. We have not yet been maryried for our faith in Jesus Christ. Anyone in this room lost their job because of their stand for Jesus? Anybody here cannot buy food at the market because you are a christian? Anybody here get kicked out of shcool because you are a christian?.....NO!!

So what is the problem? Why ~~f~~do we grow weary? Why do we lose heart? Why cann't we run this race with patience?

The only reason is because we take our eyes of off Jesus.....No other reason...It certainly cann't be perseuction, because non of us are being persecuted for our faith....

(2) And then ~~v~~Paul, in the last part of Vs 4, takes us to the cross.

The character of the resistance of Christ is discribed as being "STRIVING AGAINST SIN."

All of the ~~forces~~ ^{Forces} of sin and Satan, himself, were gainst Jesus. And the point, once again, becomes very clear. The forces of sin and certainly Satan, himself, were against Jesus the moment He went to that cross. Because ^{that} in one moment of time, Jesus bore all of sin and its results of death and suffaering. He bore our sins in His own body. And no one could have possible suffered like Jesus. For all of sin, and all of Satan's attacks were poured upon one person in one moment of time in history.

^{omit} OH, dear friends, if Jesus were merely a man, he would have fallen by the trail of it all. But, Jesus was God in human flesh who endured the cross, dispising the shame and now He is victorious....THE RESURRECTED CHRIST.... THE ONE ~~WO~~ IS COMING AGAIN.

^{right} And my friends, when ~~w~~e get our eye off of Jesus....that is ^{when the} pressures of life can over take us.....But, on the other hand...when our eyes our en Jesus.. abd we remember what he did ~~f~~for us on the cross.....THEN.....there is that tremendous possible for victory....runing the race with patience....and not growing weary and losing heart.....(SHALL WE PRAY)