

ENDURANCE

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Hebrews 12:1-3

1. Today is Palm Sunday which commemorates the events related to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem less than one week before His crucifixion.

NOTE: Jesus' response to these events is instructive. Luke 19:41-42

When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes."

NOTE: How Jesus must weep over the empty espousals of love and devotion He receives every Sunday from many who call themselves Christians, but fail to live like a true follower of Jesus Christ.

2. Jesus' earthly life was coming to a close.

3. There was a point in Jesus' ministry when He turned towards Jerusalem for the last time. Luke 9:51

"When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined (He set His face) to go to Jerusalem."

4. Jesus did so with a full understanding of what was ahead of Him, and with the commitment to fulfill perfectly His part in God's redemptive plan.

NOTE: Understanding, determination and commitment are qualities that should manifest themselves in the lives of every true follower of Jesus Christ.

5. Understanding God's will for us, possessing the determination to fulfill God's will, and manifesting the commitment needed should be a prayer priority for each of us.

6. In verse one we are commanded to lay aside every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles us, and to run with endurance the race that is set before us.

7. Verse three tells us to consider Jesus who endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

NOTE: Jesus constantly told His followers that they would encounter the same animosity and opposition that He did if they were serious about their relationship with Him.

8. If you and I are going to count for Jesus in our culture we must be focused followers of our Lord and Savior. 2

9. What was true about Him should be true about us.

I. Jesus' motivation.

A. "Who for the joy set before Him..."

B. Motivation matters in the life of a Christian.

C. Why we do what we do is important.

D. Jesus knew and rejoiced in the final outcome.

E. Paul had a similar approach to life. Romans 8:18

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

D. Long before the Incarnation the following truth was revealed concerning the Messiah. Ps 40:6-8

Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 **I delight to do Your will**, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."

NOTE: What do we delight in?

E. A similar thought was expressed by Jesus after He dealt with the Samaritan women in John 4. John 4:31-34

Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "**I have food to eat that you do not know about.**" 33 So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" 34 Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.**"

NOTE: What is our great obsession?

II. Jesus' determination.

A. "Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross..."

B. Jesus endured because He possessed the quality of endurance.

C. God knows the importance of endurance, or as the Greek is sometimes translated, perseverance or steadfastness.

D. Many Christians lack endurance even though God is seeking to produce that quality in them.

1. Rom 5:1-5

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2. James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

NOTE: Notice the attitude you and I are to have related to the trials and testing God causes or allows.

E. Endurance or perseverance will characterized the lives of all true followers of Jesus Christ.

1. Matt 10:21-22

"Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."

2. Heb 3:12-14

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.

III. Jesus' disposition.

- A. "Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame..."
- B. Here I am using the word disposition in relationship to how Jesus responded to life; how He acted and reacted to the events of His life and the circumstances of His death.
- C. Jesus was predictable in that everything He said and did was a manifestation of His oneness with the Father and the Holy Spirit. John 8:28-29
So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and **I do nothing on My own initiative**, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, **for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.**"
- D. The shame associated with being despised, rejected, branded a deceiver, and crucified as a common criminal did not concern Him from a personal standpoint.
- E. Sadly, many of Jesus' followers are predictable, but not in the positive way He was.

IV. Jesus' glorification.

- A. "Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
- B. Those who endure have a similar experience awaiting them according to our resurrected and glorified Lord. Rev 3:19-21
"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. **21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.**"

APPLICATION

1. What does this life offer that can compare to the promise found in Revelation 3:21?
2. No honor, attainment, recognition or possession even comes close.
3. May we, for the joy set before us, bear our cross, despising the shame involved, so that we too might sit down with Jesus on His throne.