

Bible Study on Hebrews 7 of 8 – Leader Guide

Hebrews 12:1-29 (Jesus the Ultimate Example of Faithfulness & warning against disobedience)

Schedule:

1/19 – Hebrews Introduction & 1:1-2

1/26 – 1:3 - 2:18 (Jesus' Superiority over the Angels)

2/2 – 3:1 - 4:13 (Jesus' Superiority over Moses)

2/9 – 4:14 - 7:28 (Superiority of Jesus' Priesthood: Jesus, the New Melchizedek)

2/16 – 8:1 - 10:18 (Superiority of Jesus' Sacrifice)

2/23 – 10:19 - 11:40 (Exhortation to Faithfulness and OT Examples of Faith)

3/2 – 12:1-29 (Jesus the Ultimate Example of Faithfulness & warning against disobedience)

3/9 – 13:1-25 (Final Exhortations, Blessings and Greetings)

Hebrews Chapter 12

12:1-2

- A. These verses serve to transition from the heroes of the faith listed in chapter 11 to those who believe in Jesus Christ.
- B. Long distance runners will often set their focus on something specific in the distance. The race of our life is to be run with the crucified and risen Christ as our focus.
 - a. This is why, traditionally, the cross or crucifix is forefront in church buildings.

12:3-6

- A. This passage begins by instructing believers on how to run the race – consider Christ and remember his love for you.
 - a. While the church that received this sermon had undergone hardships, they had not yet been persecuted to the point of death. We too are able to endure more persecution than we have, remembering that Jesus has done so before us.
- B. As Jesus' followers “compare themselves to him, they would do well to remember the possible social penalty for their resistance and not forget their status as God's sons.”¹
 - a. While we receive earthly discipline and chastisement for not following God's Law, how much worse would it be to receive eternal punishment without Jesus.

12:7-11

¹ Kleinig, *Hebrews*, 620.

- A. Here the author expands on the quote before from Proverbs 3:11-12 reminding us that we are being disciplined by our heavenly Father.
- a. The “discipline” that God gives may include punishment, but only as a form of instruction which is the main goal. – Third use of the Law.
- B. “The purpose of God’s instruction is to teach heavenly wisdom and spiritual righteousness... God provides instruction for the congregation in his holiness, so that it may have eternal life with him in heaven.”²
- a. John Chrysostom likens this to drinking bitter medicine for its benefit.

12:12-17

- A. Here the author provides further instruction on how to pursue sanctification and peace in order to see the Lord.
- a. This instruction is not just for the individual but the community of faith (v: 15).

12:18-24

- A. Two mountains are described – Sinai in 12:18-21 (where the Law is given) and Zion in 12:22-24 (where the Gospel brings us).
- a. Where there is forgiveness through the blood of Jesus, there is life and salvation.
 - b. “You have come...” (:22) – remember that Hebrews is a sermon. This was to be proclaimed in the worship service. When you gather together in worship, you join in with the angels and the whole “assembly” of believers.

12:25-29

- A. 12:25 - All mankind cannot escape from the warning that came on Mount Sinai and man will not escape punishment if he rejects Jesus who warns from heaven.
- B. 12:28 - Our hope is not in the Law given on a mountain that can be shaken (Sinai) but in God’s kingdom (Zion).
- a. This is where we race to. We run towards the throne of God, praising and thanking Him for bringing us there purely through the sacrifice of Jesus.

² Kleinig, *Hebrews*, 628.

God Bless.
3/2/25