

## Bible Lesson

Learning From Jesus's Race of Faith  
Hebrews 12:2-4

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<sup>1</sup>Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

<sup>2</sup>**looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb 12: 1-2

13

### Notice a few things with me

1. Jesus is **The Exemplar** of our faith
  - a. The Perfect Role Model in His humanity
  - b. Fully dependent, willing, obedient to God
  - c. Faith in us **began** by His work in us
  - d. Faith in us **is made perfect** by His work in us
  - e. **That faith in us** grows to full dependence on God, a humble submission to God's direction, and an immediate obedience to God's word in our lives. MATURITY.

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<sup>2</sup>**looking unto Jesus,** the author and finisher of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb 12: 2

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### Notice a few things with me...

2. **Before** the cross, He embraced future w/joy
  - a. Not left to rot in grave; **Resurrection**
  - b. Not forever in humiliation; **Ascension**
  - c. Not just crown of life—its Author; **Exalted**
  - d. **The Father** made promises **He relied on**

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### What were some of the Father's promises?

1. Enter into a forever state of glory as KING
2. Authorized with real power OVER ALL
3. Obtain a people forever redeemed from sin
4. Inherit a place forever free from the curse
5. Possess everlasting provisions for all needs
6. Protection from all future threats
7. God visibly dwelling w/His redeemed ones

The future was **"the joy set before Him"**...

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**<sup>2</sup>looking unto Jesus,**  
 the author and finisher of our faith,  
**who** for the joy that was set before Him  
 endured the cross, **despising the shame,**  
 and has sat down  
 at the right hand of the throne of God.  
 Heb 12: 2

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**Notice a few things with me...**

- 3. Going to the cross, He despised its shame**
- Men believed they had conquered Him
  - God turned their cross into His altar
  - The cross: the culmination of sufferings
  - Despised the momentary shame of it
  - Sufferings nothing vs. eternal rewards

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 the author and finisher of our faith,  
**who** for the joy that was set before Him  
**endured the cross,** despising the shame,  
 and has sat down  
 at the right hand of the throne of God.  
 Heb 12: 2

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**Notice a few things with me...**

- 4. On the cross, He clung to God's word**
- He endured by clinging to His Father—  
His Person & Word
  - Not only saving us, an example on how to  
die in faith clinging to God thru the end
  - Spoke psalms at beginning & end of it
  - Lived & breathed the word of God—  
He is the Living Word of God

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 endured the cross, despising the shame,  
 and **has sat down**  
**at the right hand of the throne of God.**  
 Heb 12: 2

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**Notice a few things with me...**

- 5. After the cross, He prepared His disciples**
- Proved His **victory over death & sin**
  - Prepped disciples for their "faith races"
  - They were to be:
    - patient (**waiting** for His word)
    - persevering (**practicing** His word)
    - persistent (**teaching** others His word)
  - Ascended to the Father's right hand:
    - to pour out "power" on God's elect
    - intercede until last sheep is in the fold

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<sup>3</sup>For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself,

lest you become weary  
and discouraged in your souls.

<sup>4</sup>You have not yet resisted to bloodshed,  
striving against sin.

Heb 12: 3-4

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**Notice these final two points with me**

6. We are to “study” Jesus’s race of faith
- a. **Deeply reflect on** His attitude & actions
  - b. He **joyfully endured** the cross
  - c. He **patiently endured** hostile sinners
    - 1) Easy to become weary
    - 2) And to become discouraged
      - a) Why won’t they listen?
      - b) Why don’t they understand?

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from sinners against Himself,

lest you become weary  
and discouraged in your souls.

<sup>4</sup>**You have not yet resisted to bloodshed,**  
**striving against sin.**

Heb 12: 3-4

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**Notice some final things with me**

7. You are to strive against sin even if it means  
losing your life for the sake of Jesus’ name
- a. He **persistently & consistently** strove  
against the sin of His day
  - b. He lost His life at the hands of His  
enemies—crossing the finish line in faith

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<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires  
to come after Me, let him deny himself,  
and take up his cross, and follow Me.

<sup>25</sup>For whoever desires to save his life will lose it,  
but **whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**

Mt 16: 24-25

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**Notice some final things with me**

7. We are to strive against sin even if it means  
losing our life for Jesus’ name
- a. ...
  - b. ...
  - c. This is how we are to learn from Jesus’s  
race of faith and strive against sin—  
**what have we to fear if Death calls?**
  - d. Jesus died *for us*; intercedes & raises up  
Jesus broke the power of eternal death over us

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<sup>37</sup>All that the Father gives Me **will come to Me**,  
and the one who comes to Me  
I will by no means cast out.  
<sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, **not to do  
My own will**, but the will of Him who sent Me.  
<sup>39</sup>**This is the will of the Father** who sent Me,  
that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing,  
but should raise it up at the last day.  
<sup>40</sup>And **this is the will of Him** who sent Me,  
that everyone who sees the Son  
and believes in Him may have everlasting life;  
and **I will raise him up at the last day.**  
Jn 6: 37-40

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**‘You have not yet resisted to bloodshed,  
striving against sin.**  
Heb 12: 4

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**RECAP**

1. Jesus is The Exemplar of our faith
2. Before the cross, He embraced future w/joy
3. Going to the cross, He despised its shame
4. On the cross, He clung to God’s word
5. After the cross, He prepared His disciples
6. We are to “study” Jesus’s race of faith
7. We are to strive against sin even if it means losing our life for Jesus’ name

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**Let us close this lesson with prayer**

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