

**Bible
Lesson**

**Encouragement for
the discouraged & forgetful
Hebrews 12:5-17**

15

RECAP OF LAST SUNDAY'S MAIN POINTS

How are we to look to Jesus?

A. Closely study Jesus's race of faith

1. He obediently yielded His will to the Father
2. Persevered through hostility & plots
3. Stroved against the sin of the age
4. Lived & died in faith, showing us the way

16

⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation
which speaks to you as to sons:
*"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;
⁶For whom the LORD loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives."*
Heb 12: 5-6

17

**B. Encouragement to the "forgetful"
to remember God's wisdom**

1. Quotes God's wisdom literature: Pro 3:11-12
2. Defining terms helps us see the good in it:
 - a. **Despise** – reject, refuse, run from
 - b. **Chasten** – moral training, correction
 - c. **Faint** – loathing, dread, feeling sick
 - d. **Rebuke** – reproof, impeachment, chiding
 - e. **Scourge** – "beating" a guilty conscience

18

**WE MIGHT SAY
TO OURSELVES:**

***I should not reject the LORD's correction
or run from His difficult training regimen.***

*I should not feel **sick with dread**—
or **faint** if I'm called to account by God
when going through hard trials.*

**GOD IS SHAPING ME BY DIFFICULT TRIALS
TO LEARN TO PERSEVERE THRU THEM**

19

**WE MIGHT SAY
TO OURSELVES:**

*God is taking me out of my comfort zone—
He's **elevating me** to a greater height
by His stricter way.*

*He's making me into **the best version of myself**
for the glory of His name.*

**GOD IS ELEVATING MY CHARACTER
TO REFLECT HIS GLORY AS A CHILD OF GOD**

20

B. Encouragement to the “forgetful” to remember God’s wisdom

3. Look at the *positives* in God’s discipline

- a. **Participation:** Actively participates
- b. **Practice:** Loves; disciplines in love too
- c. **Presence:** Readily receives His children

21

*“For whom the LORD loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives.”*

Heb 12: 6

22

⁷If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

⁸But if you are without chastening, of which all become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Heb 12: 7-8

23

B. Encouragement to the “forgetful” to remember God’s wisdom

4. All God’s children are disciplined by Him

- a. **It is a family** relationship
- b. **Not under** God’s supervision & discipline, **not considered** His child, v8
- c. **God never grows tired** in His parenting
- d. **How can we tell who are His children?**

24

¹⁰In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest:

Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

1Jn 3: 10

God trains His children in righteousness. They practice it.

25

B. Encouragement to the “forgetful” to remember God’s wisdom

4. All God’s children are disciplined by Him

- a. **It is a family** relationship
- b. **Not under** God’s supervision & discipline, **not considered** His child, v8
- c. **God never grows tired** in His parenting
- d. **How can we tell who are His children?**
 - 1) God trains His children in righteousness. They practice it. (1Jn 3:10)

26

⁶We are of God.
 He who knows God hears us;
 he who is not of God does not hear us.
 By this we know the spirit of truth
 and the spirit of error.
 1Jn 4: 6

**God teaches His children His word.
 They listen & heed it.**

27

**B. Encouragement to the “forgetful”
 to remember God’s wisdom**

4. All God’s children are disciplined by Him
a. It is a family relationship
b. Not under God’s supervision & discipline,
not considered His child, v8
c. God never grows tired in His parenting
d. How can we tell who are His children?
 1) God trains His children in righteousness.
 They practice it. (1Jn 3:10)
 2) God teaches His children His word.
 They listen & heed it. (1Jn 4:6)

28

⁹Furthermore, we have had human fathers
 who corrected us, and we paid them respect.
 Shall we not much more readily be in subjection
 to the Father of spirits and live?
¹⁰For they indeed for a few days chastened us
 as seemed best to them,
 but He for our profit,
 that we may be partakers of His holiness.
 Heb 12: 9-10

29

**B. Encouragement to the “forgetful”
 to remember God’s wisdom**

5. Our Heavenly Father deserves our best
a. Earthly: correction, subjection, respect
b. Heavenly: How much more!
c. Earthly: chastened acc. to their word
d. Heavenly: Chastened acc. to His word
e. Earthly: what is immediately good
f. Heavenly: what is eternally good
g. Earthly: Looks for a “health” benefit
h. Heavenly: ... for a “holiness” benefit

30

¹¹Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present,
 but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields
 the peaceable fruit of righteousness
 to those who have been trained by it.
 Heb 12: 11

31

**B. Encouragement to the “forgetful”
 to remember God’s wisdom**

6. God’s discipline bears visible fruit in us
a. Impossible for natural man to bear up
 1) Fleshly nature’s disobedience/unbelief
 2) Runners who are “competition”
 3) Family & friend relations disturbed
 4) Trying circumstances shake the soul
b. The kind of fruit seen in true runners:
 1) Fruit of righteousness
 2) Fruit of peace toward God & brethren

32

**B. Encouragement to the “forgetful”
to remember God’s wisdom**

RECAP:

1. Author quotes God’s wisdom literature
2. Defining terms helps us see the good in it
3. Look at the *positives* in God’s discipline
4. All God’s children are disciplined by Him
5. Our Heavenly Father deserves our best
6. God’s discipline bears visible fruit in us

33

¹²Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down,
and the feeble knees,
¹³and make straight paths for your feet,
so that what is lame may not be dislocated,
but rather healed.

Heb 12: 12-13

34

**C. Pointers for those who are
discouraged in the race**

1. Overcome your personal weaknesses:
 - a. **Strengthen** the weak parts, RESOLVE
 - b. **Don’t wander** aimlessly, without purpose
 - c. **Bring yourself before God & His word**
for healing

35

¹⁴**Pursue peace** with all people,
and holiness,
without which no one will see the Lord:

Heb 12: 14

36

**C. Pointers for those who are
discouraged in the race**

2. Build relationships w/others in the race
 - a. **Work on** your relations within the Body
 - b. **Work on** your relations outside the Body
with holy intent & purpose: for their good

37

¹⁴**Pursue peace** with all people,
and **holiness**,
without which no one will see the Lord:

Heb 12: 14

38

C. Pointers for those who are discouraged in the race

3. Emphasize the development of God’s holiness in you while running your race
a. Pursuing holiness is critical, essential
b. Holiness is fundamental to God’s Being
c. God is forever holy—that is what He is working out *to every part* in you:
“mind, heart, soul, and strength”

39

¹⁵looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God,
lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble,
and by this many become defiled;
¹⁶lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau,
who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.
¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing,
he was rejected,
for he found no place for repentance,
though he sought it diligently with tears.
Heb 12: 15-17

40

C. Pointers for those who are discouraged in the race

4. Remember your brothers & sisters in the race and watch out for them too
a. Eagle eyes: watch out for those who may fall – warn and encourage them
1) BITTERNESS is a noxious, angry weed
2) SEXUAL IMMORALITY opens “doors”
3) GODLESSNESS inherits nothing; merits only rejection before God

41

C. Pointers for those who are discouraged in the race

4. Remember your brothers & sisters in the race and watch out for them too
a. God’s eyes: knows hearts, even godless
1) His concern is for our safety & welfare
2) He will protect His children by excision if necessary:
a) Acts 5:4-5 | Ananias & Sapphira
b) 1Cor 11:29-32 | Lord’s Supper profaned
c) Rev 2:16; 22-23; 3:19 | Sinning churches

42

C. Pointers for those who are discouraged in the race

RECAP:
1. Overcome your personal weaknesses
2. Build relationships w/others in the race
3. Emphasize the development of God’s holiness in you while running your race
4. Remember your brothers & sisters in the race and watch out for them too

43

Let us close our lesson with prayer

44