

SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 12:12-17, we receive 3 commands based on the truths found in vs. 1-11.

- I. Strengthen your spirit.
 - A. Lifting drooping hands (v. 12a).
 - B. Strengthening weak knees (v. 12b).
- II. Straighten your path (v. 13a).
 - A. So sin doesn't increase (v. 13b).
 - B. So healing ensues (v. 13c).
- III. Strive (v. 14a)
 - A. For peace (v. 14b).
 - B. For holiness (v. 14c).
 - C. While you make sure (v. 15a)
 1. No one misses salvation (v. 15b).
 2. No root of bitterness rises up (v. 15c).
 3. No one is like Esau (v. 16c):
 - a. an idolator (v. 16a).
 - b. unholy (v. 16b).
 - c. unrepentant (v. 17).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 30, 2021

Passage: Hebrews 12:12-17

Memory Passage: Hebrews 12:12-14

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:12-17 & Is. 35:1-10.** Upon what truths is the “therefore” which begins v. 12 based (cf. 12:1-11)?
- (b) Verse 12 quotes Is. 35:3. What similarities do you find between Is. 35 & Hebrews 12:12-17?
- (c) Are the commands found in v. 12 primarily addressed to one’s outer or inner man? Explain your answer.
- (d) What causes you to become spiritually and physically weary in your walk with Christ, and how does what you learned in chapter 12 fuel your obedience to verse twelve’s commands?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:12-17.** Explain how the metaphor of a weary runner continues in v. 13.
- (b) Explain what this metaphor refers to in your spiritual walk as you endure sin for discipline’s benefits (cf. 12:7)?
- (c) What parts of your daily walk with Christ are “lame,” how are they continually put “out of joint,” and what “straight paths” should you pursue so your walk will “be healed?”
- (d) What signs might others give that they are struggling with spiritual weariness, and what will you do when you see them?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:12-17.** The command to “strive” (v. 14) conveys a continuous action, as in “keep striving for.” In what ways are you not at peace with anyone (cf. “with everyone”), and how will you begin actively pursuing peace with them?
- (b) What is the “holiness” for which we should strive, how exactly must we strive for it, and what role does the Lord’s discipline play (cf. v. 10)?
- (c) Why does it require holiness to “see the Lord,” and when will this happen?
- (d) What activities and thoughts are you currently embracing that are antithetical to your striving of holiness, and how will you readjust your walk and thoughts to pursue holiness actively?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:12-17 & Deut. 29:18-20.** What does “fails to obtain the grace of God” mean, and how does the body (notice the corporate focus) “see to it” that no one does this?
- (b) After reading Deut. 29:18-20, explain what a “root of bitterness” is and whether it is individual or corporate.
- (c) Explain the danger (i.e., “many become defiled”) if the body fails to stop this root of bitterness from springing up?
- (d) How do you recognize if you are the root of bitterness springing up? How do you recognize others? What steps can be taken if this root of bitterness rises up, whether it is you or someone else?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 12:12-17.** Why was Esau considered “sexually immoral or unholy” when he sold his birthright?
- (b) In what ways are you like Esau (“see to it that . . . no one is . . . like Esau”)? In what ways might you become like him?
- (c) Why did Esau find “no chance to repent?” What had already happened that he could not reverse?
- (d) Explain what our author says to his audience in vs. 15-17 (i.e., what does he want them to both understand and do)?
- (e) Explain what you must do in obedience to vs. 15-17.

DATE: May 30, 2021

PASSAGE: Hebrews 12:12-17

Strive for Peace & Holiness

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 30, 2021

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 1:14-16

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(e) This week we will dig deeper into the idea of holiness. Hebrews Chapter 12 calls us to “strive . . . for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (v. 14) because God “disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.” But what does this mean? Is it important? Exactly how do I strive for holiness? What is my basis for holiness? By what standard do I measure holiness? From what should I separate and to what should I be conformed? You will study various passages this week to grow in your understanding of this essential aspect of God’s character and our calling.

(f) The Hebrew word group behind the English “holy” and “holiness” carries the basic idea “to cut” or “to separate” and therefore denotes a separation from what is unclean, unholy, or defiled. It is a characteristic of God (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are said to be holy), and God’s people are called to holiness. Our English words “sanctify” and “sanctification” fall into this same category (i.e., the process of being conformed or consecrated to what is pure and holy), as well as the word “saints,” which refers to those set apart by God for Himself. These words occur more than 1000 times in different forms in our Bibles, so you will only examine a brief few this week.

(g) **Read Ps. 47:8, 89:18, Is. 5:16, 6:13, 43:15, 57:15, Luke 1:35, Heb. 7:26, Rev. 3:7.** What do you learn about our triune God from these passages (including many that speak of the Spirit as “Holy”)? Describe this aspect of God’s character and its effect on the way He works in His three persons.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(e) **Read Ex. 19:6, Lev. 20:23-26, 19:2, Num. 15:40, Is. 62:12, Eph. 5:26, 1 Pet. 1: 16 & 2:9.** What do you learn about holiness from these verses, especially concerning the relationship between God and His people as a whole?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(e) **Read Rom. 6:22, 1 Cor. 1:2, 6:11, Eph. 1:4, Col. 1:22, & 1 Thess. 4:3-7.** What do you learn about holiness from these passages, especially (but not limited to) concerning the provision God made through Christ for His people with regard to holiness?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(e) **Read Rom. 6:1-23, Eph. 4:17-5:21 & 2 Pet. 1:3-11.** What do you learn about holiness and the life of a Christian from these verses? Write down both commands to follow and principles to be utilized.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(f) **Read Heb. 12:14.** Re-read all your answers from this week. Write down each of the questions posed in 1(a) above and provide detailed answers to each question drawing on what you have learned.

DATE: May 30, 2021

PASSAGE: Various

Holiness