

Hebrews: The “Better” Life

The Supremacy of Christ:
In Example Heb 12:4-28

The Message so far...

- **JESUS BETTER IN REVELATION [1:1-4:13]**
- **JESUS BETTER IN MEDIATION [4:14-7:28]**
- **JESUS BETTER IN MINISTRY [8:1-12:3]**
 - **Jesus: I. The Exalted High Priest [8:1-6] [Outline Intro]**
 - **Jesus: II. The Better Covenant – 8:7-13**
 - **Jesus: III. The Better Sanctuary – 9:1-12**
 - **Jesus IV. The Better Sacrifices – 9:13-10:18**
 - **Jesus V. The Better Promises – 10:19-12:3**
 - Lay aside encumbrance and “besetting sin”
 - “look away” to Jesus; Consider Him
 - Do not grow weary and lose heart
- **JESUS BETTER IN EXAMPLE– [12:4-28]**
 - **Example in Discipline – 12:4-13**

Consider HIM – Shedding blood!

- Calling us to seek Christ as our example
- Weary... lose heart... these are the crippling blows
- Jesus endured the hostility of sinners (us!)
- Was this the great thing that consumed Jesus – Gethsemane!
- A point comes sharp into view:
 - Resisted – *antikathistemi*, 1x; face-to-face battle line
 - shedding blood? As Jesus did over our sins? Heroes of Ch. 11
 - Striving against sin – *antagonizomai*, 1x: this is the REAL battle
 - Worst thing in a battle is NOT KNOWING the enemy!
 - Why do we put other things in the way of this fight? (Vs.1)
 - We are so willing to fight anything else...
 - Jesus knew what to fight, do we? 1Co 9:25; 10:13; Ja 1:12; 1Pt 1:6,7

The Exhortation

- Have we forgotten as they did? Pr 3:11 of a father to a son
 - Despise – *oligoreo*, 1x – light, passing regard
 - Faint – *ekluo*, 6x – to relax, loosen, despondent
 - Reproved – *elegcho* - to convict, expose, call to account
 - Disciplines – *paideuo* – whole training and education (Dt 8:5)
 - Scourges – *mastigoo* – Jn 19:1; Mt 23:34
 - Strong methods for correction and training
- No demons here...the LORD!
 - Does this offend our thinking?
 - What did the Father pour out upon Jesus?
 - The full message of the section is essential to hear and study
 - God is the only One to trust with this process! (Ps 119:71, 75)

Discipline we Endure

- Context of the sufferings in Heb 11...
- Since it is God that is doing the work in us, bear up...
 - Knowing the Who makes all that happens “easier”
 - He is creating the father/son intimacy for all of us
 - Father’s we entrusted to train/prepare – Deut 6; Pr 29:14-17
 - Is it not best for Father to do this in His wisdom/love?
- Vs. 8 – look out!
 - If we are trying to avoid and deny his discipline...
 - KJV is very strong here... *nothos*, 1x – one born out of wedlock
 - All have become partakers! No true child of God avoids this!
 - This is the real work in our heart and minds... to conform us!
 - The example of Israel...
 - Can we accept this side of our God?

The Discipline

- Earthly fathers – provide, protect, instruct, guide, encourage, acknowledge, prepare, and do all in their power to love
 - “we should receive every affliction as full proof that we are not forgotten by the High and Holy One who condescends to sustain the character, and to evince towards us, in our wanderings, the watchful care of a Father.” Barnes
 - We usually give fathers’ respect for doing this (eventually)!
 - If we give this to earthly “fathers of flesh”...
- Father of our spirits (Nu 16:22; 27:16) the immortal part of us
 - He sees the beginning and end
 - Vs 10 – earthly fathers – limited ability and insight
 - God – for our good (1Co 12:7) *sumphero*, coming together
 - Qualified to share His glory! Is this worth the struggle?

Concerning discipline

- It is NOT JOYFUL!
 - God is not looking for masochists! Flagellating is out!!
 - Not a fun process at all... in fact it is sorrowful! (*lupe*)
 - Training for Olympics; studying for SAT's; limited value
 - So many do suffer for smaller rewards...
- Those trained (*gumnazo*) – exercise, vigorous work out
 - Hayes Jones – 5' 10"; Rome 1960, bronze... Tokyo 1964... GOLD
 - 110 m hurdles... 13.6 secs... 4 years of training!
 - And who remembers him?
- Peaceful fruit of righteousness
 - This is our goal, for Him and us!
 - The end result will be a place of great contentment...