

Hebrews: The “Better” Life

The Supremacy of Christ:
In Ministry Heb 12:4-29

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**
- **JESUS BETTER IN EXAMPLE– [12:4-29]**
 - **Example in Discipline – 12:4-13**
 - **Duty and Dangers – 12:14-29**

The Discipline (9,10)

- 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! (11)
 - 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...

Something to think on:

It's the plugging away that will win you the day,
So don't be a piker, old pard! [i.e.
partner]

Just draw on your grit, it's so easy to quit.
It's the keeping-your chin-up that's hard.
It's easy to cry that you're beaten — and die;
It's easy to crawfish and crawl;
But to fight and to fight when hope's out of sight —
Why that's the best game of them all!
And though you come out of each grueling bout,
All broken and battered and scarred,
Just have one more try — it's dead easy to die,
It's the keeping-on-living that's hard.

“The Quitter” Robert W. Service

Our Part

- “lift up” strengthen – to make erect, renew again (*anorthoo*)
 - Aorist active imperative voice...
- The “hanging down hands”,
 - from being tired, weary
 - Can also mean to let pass, relax...
 - Remember Moses? Ex 17:10ff
- Feeble knees – (*paraluo*) palsied (Lk 5:18,24)
 - Loosen, dissolve, paralyze
 - Incapable of carrying forward the body, much less run a race!
- straight paths for your feet – wheel tracks
- The alternative? “put out of joint” *ektrepo*
 - Jacob and the angel... Ge 32:25ff
 - Or, it can be healed... (*iaomai* – make whole, free from error)