

## BETTER THAN

Andy Deane · 3/12/2023 · Hebrews 12-13

Today we'll see that Jesus is better, even in the categories of our lives that we've tried to make off-limits to Him.

### **Jesus is BETTER THAN: Giving in to Sin**

Hebrews 12:4; 14-16, <sup>4</sup>*In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood...<sup>14</sup> Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. <sup>16</sup> See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.*

**If we believe the gospel, then let's "make every effort" (14) to get these behaviors in line with it:**

1. *live in peace with everyone...* (14)
2. [avoid being] *bitter...* (15)
3. [avoid being] *sexually immoral...* (16)
4. [avoid being] *godless like Esau...* (16)
5. *be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord* (14)

Hebrews 13:4, *Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*

### **Jesus is BETTER THAN: Getting Away with It**

Hebrews 12:5-11, <sup>5</sup>*And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son." <sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

Why is it *loving* (6) for God to discipline us?

- God knows: the future of a rebellious child.
- God cares: enough to do the hard work of discipline.

Why is it *encouraging* (5) for God to discipline us?

- It proves our adoption as God's children.
- *God is treating you as his children* (7)

What should our response to discipline be?

- To our human fathers: *we respected them for it* (9)
- To our Heavenly Father: *we submit* (9)

What is the result of God's discipline?

- *No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful* (11)
- *God disciplines us for our good...that we may share in his holiness.* (10)
- *it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace* (11)

### **Jesus is BETTER THAN: Giving Up on Faith**

Hebrews 12:1-3, <sup>1</sup>*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its*

*shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Reason: we know it's possible for us to finish our race? Others have done it: *cloud of witnesses* (1)

So how can we endure and finish the spiritual race we're in?

1. Repent: of sin
2. Run: with perseverance
3. Remember: Jesus

Result: *so that you will not grow weary and lose heart* (3)

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Hebrews 13:20-21, <sup>20</sup> *Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,* <sup>21</sup> *equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

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The Book of Hebrews mentioned a few categories of sin that we all struggle with. I personally know the painful feeling of realizing my behaviors don't always line up with God's desires for my life. Please know that no matter where you are on your journey with Jesus, you are welcome here at Cornerstone, and our pastors are here to support you.

Please text the word "COFFEE" to [\(951\)425-4425](tel:9514254425) to setup a meeting with one of our pastors over a cup of coffee.