

Rooted

The Barrier to Discipleship
Hebrews 12:1-2
November 15, 2015

Discipleship: training in Christ-likeness.

I. Sin is the Barrier to Discipleship

- Discipleship is becoming more like Jesus (2 Pet. 3:18).
- Becoming more like Jesus is our greatest good! (Rom. 8:28-29)
- Sin is the barrier to our becoming more like Jesus, which is our greatest good.

II. Lay Aside Every Weight and Sin (vs. 1)

- Be encouraged by the “great cloud of witnesses” (Heb. 11; 12:1; Rom. 15:4).
- Faith defined (Heb. 11:1).
- Unbelief, pride, and idolatry are at the root of all sin (Rom. 1:25, 14:23).
- We must repent, fear God, and please God (Psalm 51:17; 2 Cor. 5:9; Eccl. 12:13).
- Abel, Noah, Abraham, Esau (Heb. 11; 12:15-16).
- Even good things can become idols and added weight (Ex. 20:3).
- We must not stop with laying aside sin. We must... (Heb. 12:2; Eph. 4:20-32).

III. Live by Faith Looking to Jesus and Treasuring Him (vs. 2)

- Jesus is the founder and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:1).
- Have an eternal perspective and take up your cross daily (Lk. 9:23-24; Heb. 12:2; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1-4).

- Focus on the gospel, which is the person and work of Christ (2 Cor. 1:20; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).
- Look to Jesus to persevere (2 Thess. 3:5).
- Get an accountability partner who treasures Christ (Prov. 27:17; Heb. 10:23-25).

Suggested Reading:

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands, by Paul Tripp
A Gospel Primer, by Milton Vincent

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Hebrews 12:1-2

1. What did you find most encouraging, challenging, and/or convicting from the sermon? Why? How will you apply this?
2. Which examples from the Bible have helped you lay aside certain sins and look to Jesus? Be specific with the examples and the sin (it will help others)!
3. How is unbelief and idolatry connected to all our sin? Explain by giving a specific example. (If need be, work through an example as a group).
4. Why is the truth of Psalm 51:17 and Ephesians 4:20-32 so important to truly laying aside sin? What was meant in the sermon by the phrase “if we stop the sin outwardly but still cherish it in our hearts we have not repented”?
5. What do you not want to say or think on your death bed? What do you need to start or stop doing now so that you do not say or think that? Be specific!
6. What does it mean to look to Jesus? How do we do this? Give a specific example of how to do this and how it helps us to lay aside sin.
7. How did knowing the joy that was set before Jesus encourage him? How can knowing the joy that is set before us encourage us to persevere in laying aside sin and looking to Jesus?
8. Why is genuine accountability so important? Share an example of how accountability has helped you lay aside sin and look to Jesus.