

JOE #28: HEBREWS 12:1-2 EYES ON JESUS

One of the most unforgettable moments in Olympic history happened during the 1992 Barcelona Games. British runner Derek Redmond had trained for years for the 400-meter semifinal. Halfway through the race, his hamstring tore. He collapsed to the track in agony. His dream was over. But then something remarkable happened. He got back up. As the other runners crossed the finish line, Derek began limping toward his own. Suddenly, through the crowd, his father broke past security, wrapped an arm around his son, and together they walked the final stretch. The stadium erupted. It wasn't the fastest finish in Olympic history, but it became one of most inspiring. **STORY INSPIRED RUNNERS**

BLDG ARGUMENT INSPIRE SURROUNDED BY GENERATIONS OF FAITH RUNNERS

- PARADIGM SHIFT. Not feel-good stories. Lives w/real stories. Successes. Tragedies. Unfulfilled expectations. Cloud Witnesses. Life Stories speak. preach

Abel (faith worth it) Noah (keep building) Sara (look to promise) Abe (keep walking)
God did not always deliver them from suffering, but He never abandoned them in it. **U FELT THAT.** They finished strong because they kept their eyes on the promise.

- Every one of those runners lives points to Someone greater. The One their faith was anticipating all along. TO THE ONE THAT WE HAVE.

MP: The Christian life is a race of endurance, but we do not finish by staring at ourselves. We finish by fixing our eyes on Jesus. GOD AT WORK DIVINELY/SUPER

- True: UR runner. How ru running. How's race going? CONTEXT THROWING AW

BECAUSE WE ARE RUNNING A RACE - LAY ASIDE ANYTHING HOLDS YOU BACK

LIFE IS FILLED DISTRACTIONS, TEMPTATIONS. OBSTACLES. POTENT RUIN RACES

Runners don't want to be encumbered. Carry little possible. Drop Weight. clothing

- **Every Weight:** hindrance, impediment. Not sin/evil. NOT HELPFUL RUNNING Busy schedules. Endless scrolling. Financial obsession. Reaching back ur past. Not evil just heavy. WHAT IN UR LIFE HAS BECOME UNHELPFUL TO RUNNING. Weighing **Not everything that is allowed is helping you run. Some things are not sinful enough to convict you, but they are heavy enough to cripple you.**

- **Sin Clings so Closely:** Sin is counterproductive faith running. ALWAYS

- o Actively Fights against the goal you are pursuing. **LIKE VINES FEET**

LAY THEM ASIDE: Take them off. Put them down. Throw them away. CAN'T VS. WON'T

BECAUSE WE ARE RUNNING A RACE - RUN WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART

FOREST - SCENE WHERE BRACES FLY OFF - HINDERED / SET FREE TO RUN.

- **Run:** Runners committed. Long Distance. Not Wander. ½ hearted. ALL IN. 100

The race of faith is not a casual walk through favorable circumstances. It is a lifelong refusal to turn back from Jesus.

- **Your Race** – God given u a unique race. U Don't run some1 else's

Moses, Abel, Abraham, Noah, Rahab, Joseph. Sara all had their own stories. RESPONSIBL WITH ENDURANCE: Hupomone. Run and don't stop running especially when its hard.

Some of you are not running with strength right now. You are limping through grief, disappointment, betrayal, or unanswered prayer. Hebrews does not shame the limp. It says, "Keep moving toward Jesus." **RUN THROUGH IT. HOW?**

LOOKING TO JESUS

Look: Turn your attention from one thing to **focus** on another. FULL FOCUS JESUS

- THIS IS WHERE THE WHOLE 11 CHAPTERS HAVE BEEN HEADED

Runners know winning or losing is based on where u keep ur eyes. Always finish line

- Jesus is our obsession. He consumes our vision. WHY?? CONSIDER GOSPELS..

Beauty character. Wonder mercy. Depth Wisdom. Relentlesses love. Unmatched Power.

NO 1 LIKE JESUS – Jesus qualified you b in race. Sustains through. Rewards u for.

- **Founder faith** ἀρχηγός: Pioneer. Trailblazer. Champion. One who goes first.

Jesus is not merely the initiator of our faith. He is the One who has gone ahead of us into suffering, temptation, death, resurrection, and exaltation. Trailblazed and now leads us.

- **Perfector** Τελειωτής: Completer. One who brings faith to its intended goal.

It means our faith ultimately rests not on the strength of our grip but on the certainty of His

commitment to complete what He has begun. BE CONFIDENT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK...

- For Joy set before Him: Obedience to Father (I always please). Renewal all things. Salvation for the lost. **FOR YOU.**

Joy in suffering empowered Jesus. **THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH.**

- Endured Cross: Pressed thru pain. Didn't quit. Pain cross purpose coming

He endured the cross to accomplish redemption. Your salvation.

- Even Shame Cross: Cross designed shame. Jewish law

NOW RULES OVER ALL: Sat Down Right Hand: Resurrected and Received to Glory.

Covered with shame/Crowned with Glory. Shamed at the cross. Showered w/praise of His people. Endured the suffering. Endowed w/name above all names.

- His story is the ULTIMATE STORY. What is Christianity about. Jesus. Christianity is not a religion it is a PERSON. WHATS THE DEAL? DEAL IS JESUS.

WHAT HAS DISTRACTED YOU FROM SEEING JESUS? LAY IT ASIDE

MAYBE YOU NEED TO LOOK TO HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME

- By faith trust in Him. The race he run for your redemption. The price he paid for your sin. The opportunity **HE SETS BEFORE YOU NOW**