

Life Application Notes

Training for life – 3rd December 2017 - Central

Speaker: Si Munsie

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-13

Introduction

This Sunday Si was showing from Hebrews 12 that Jesus is our model for endurance in a life of obedience and faith. We are told to endure hardship as discipline and Si unpacked that this is key to our understanding of the Christian journey through life and that we are disciplined by God as a confirmation of our status as children of God. Finally, we explored that those who are 'trained by it' will reap a harvest of righteousness and peace

Jesus our model:

Read Matthew 26: 36-46 and explore the depth of Jesus' endurance in the face of temptation.

What can we see from Jesus' life here showing us how to endure? What is the key?

A glide with pride or the plod of God.

The writer to the Hebrews assumes that Christians will face hardship and that they are to view this as discipline. How would you describe your walk with God over the time you have been following him? Has it all been plain sailing? Have you ever asked the question, 'God, if you really loved me.....?' What does that tell us about our perspective on who God is?

Si discussed the idea that when we view hardship as anything other than discipline we project a view of God that says he is either an angry, punishing father or an absent ambivalent father.

What can we do to ensure that we have a correct view of God? (Spend time in the word, listening to sound teaching, wrestling with the hardships of life together in life group etc.)

Read together these verses - why does God want to affirm to us so much that our status is that of sons and daughters, children of God?

Galatians 3:26, 2 Corinthians 6:18, Romans 8:14, Galatians 4:7, John 1:12

Si showed from the text that the discipline that we undergo from God is a discipline that confirms our status as children rather than that of condemnation of an illegitimate discipline from one we do not know nor are subject to.

Why does our status as children of God mean that we can view discipline as something that is for our benefit? (Because of God's great love for us that doesn't leave us as we are but changes us to be more like him!)

If we are facing hardship or discipline, God may be using it to do one of 5 Rs:

Repentance: Calling us to repent and turn back to Him. **Luke 13:4-5**

Reliance: Removing the props that we are using to prop ourselves up and feel as though we are sufficient.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

Righteousness: Making us more like him in developing our holiness **Hebrews 12:6, 10-11**

Reward: That we are storing for ourselves treasures in heaven **2 Corinthians 4:17**

Reminder: That Jesus came and suffered and died so that we might know God! **Philippians 3:10**

Spend time reflecting on times when God's discipline has benefited you in the past and ask God that in the hardships we may be facing that we would glorify him and would find our sufficiency in him as our father.