

Hebrews Part 3: Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our Faith

Lesson 4: Hebrews 12:1-17

April 28, 2024

1. *Think about what you understand to be the overall message of Chapter 12 and write out your analysis of how this chapter fits into the purpose of the whole epistle of Hebrews.*
  
2. *Read Hebrews 12:1-3 as one paragraph. Identify the critical verbs in these verses and describe the role that each of them plays in the meaning/purpose of this paragraph.*
  
3. *In Hebrews 12:5-6 the author quotes from Proverbs 3. Read verses 5 & 6, in the context of Proverbs 3:1-12. From your understanding of the message of Hebrews and in the context of Proverbs 3:1-12, what disciplines are the recipients of the epistle of Hebrews experiencing?*
  
4. *According to Hebrews 12, what place does discipline have in the life of a child of God? Why?*
  
5. *According to Hebrews 12, what is the purpose of discipline? What is true if discipline is not present?*
  
6. *Look up the following passages and think about what each says, considering the discipline spoken-of in Hebrews 12. By each reference, briefly state what insights you gain and how they correlate with Hebrews 12.*
  - a. *Psalms 119:67 and 71 –*
  
  - b. *James 1:2-4 and 12 –*
  
  - c. *1 Peter 1:6-9 –*
  
7. *From what the author shares in Hebrews 12, what is God's goal for us – his purpose – in disciplining us?*

8. *Hebrews 12:11* makes reference to “the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” *Isaiah 32:17* uses a similar phrase. In light of *Isaiah’s* usage, what do you think this phrase means and what relationship might it have to holiness and sanctification?
  
9. Read *Proverbs 4:20-27*. Then explain what you think the author of *Hebrews 12:12-13* is saying in this context?
  
10. Read *Hebrews 12:14*. Then look up the following cross-references, making note of any parallels or insights you gain from comparing Scripture with Scripture.
  - a. *Matthew 5:8* –
  
  - b. *Leviticus 11:45* –
  
  - c. *1 Thessalonians 4:1-8* –
  
  - d. *1 Corinthians 6:9-11* –
  
11. Consider the exhortation and example about Esau in *Hebrews 12:15-17*. Then, read *Genesis 25:19-34* and *Genesis 27:1-41*. Where do you see Esau’s “root of bitterness springing up” and who were the “many” who by it were defiled?
  
12. What was “immoral” and/or “godless” about Esau’s responses? What other kind of response could Esau have had that would have prevented bitterness?