

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

“For consider Him, who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. You have not resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.” (Heb. 12:3-4) It is so easy for us to focus on our hurts and disappointments and when we do, we begin losing heart and growing weary. People drag God in for questioning when things don’t go their way or according to their plans. We ask God for this, or to help us with that, and when the answer is “no, it needs to be this way,” we question God. It’s called self-pity and self-indulgence. We probably don’t think of it that way, but it is. What about Jesus? Did He pray to His Father, our Father, that the hostility against Him would decrease? What did God say? We know of three major accounts where God told Jesus, “No, no, no!” Where did He continue looking, knowing the promises were still intact, no matter how painful life became?

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb. 12:2) As long as everything goes our way, we are content and happy with God. But when things get difficult, we begin questioning God and His mercy! Jesus had promises set before Him that were promises of joy. He looked to those promises in which He was able to endure the cross and shame, knowing that hardships didn’t alter God’s promises one bit. He still trusted in His Father. We seem to be different. Sufferings, hardships, pains and diseases are part of this sin filled world! God doesn’t promise us exemption from such. He promises us eternal life in His Son. He promises His love and forgiveness of sin. We think that God no longer cares when we don’t find relief from suffering and hardship. Our eyes are no longer on Jesus and what He did for us. We’ve lost sight of how far He is willing to go on our behalf. Our focus becomes our hurt and concern. Our faith begins to waver and a court case is announced with God being called in to testify! The longer we look at the hurt, faith erodes and we end up with depression while wallowing in our own self-pity. You hear people say, “My life has been so hard, especially the last few years!”

I want you to know, I feel deeply for people in their suffering. But on the other side, suffering teaches us so much about our Father and where we are in our relationship to Him. Let’s not cheapen our Lord and His sacrifice for us by questioning God. Let’s “*fix our eyes on Jesus*” and “*consider Him*” and His promises so that we will not grow weary and lose heart! We need to strive harder against sin! Think about it!!!

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