

SERMON OUTLINE

Jesus Endured Suffering

Hebrews 12:1-2

Because Jesus endured suffering for the sake of love, our suffering is met by the closest possible succor.

How does the succor of Jesus meet us in our suffering?

By drawing our attention to others who have finished the race.

(Hebrews 12:1-2)

By drawing our attention to the depth of his greater suffering in the race.

(Hebrews 12:1-2)

By drawing our attention to his present location, our finish line in the race.

(Hebrews 12:1-2)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Name some of your heroes of the faith. What qualities stand out to you about their lives? What have your heroes suffered? How did they respond in the adversity?
- The Old Testament “heroes” listed in Hebrews 11 witnessed to their faith through word and deed. As we look back at their faithful example, like spectators in an arena, how are we encouraged to run with endurance the race set before us (Hebrews 12:1; 1 Corinthians 9:24–27; 2 Timothy 4:6–8)?
- After giving past examples of faith in Hebrews 11, the author reminds readers that it is Jesus’ perfecting of their faith that leads to perfection in his people (Hebrews 12:2). Because of the future reward set before him, Jesus endured the greatest suffering in history in consuming God’s wrath against sin on the cross (Matthew 27:27–50). How does Jesus’ perfect endurance not only solidify our future hope but also encourage our perseverance as we wait?
- As we observe so much suffering in our world and particularly in this season of Advent, what promises come to your mind from the Scripture about the victory of Jesus through suffering, that suffering is not the end because of what Jesus has suffered?
- What practical steps can you take to encourage someone in your neighborhood who is going through a particularly hard season? What could you pray for them? How could you serve them? How could you bless them?