

“TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS”
HEBREWS 12:1-4

“LOOK UNTO JESUS”

INTRO: There are many things going around us that can discourage those of us who love the Lord and want to see Him glorified. Some of those things take place at work. Some in the family. Some in the church. Some in society. We would do well to remember that things will not be perfect and that no matter where we turn discouraging things will be taking place. Because of the discouraging things many Christians become discouraged, give up, quit, become negative, jump from job to job or church to church and some even leave the community and in certain cases the Country. **BUT NO MATTER WHERE WE GO ON EARTH WE WILL RUN INTO DISCOURAGING THINGS! SO, WHAT DO WE DO? Hebrews 12:1-4 has the answer. Let’s take a look!**

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OBSEERVATION: Hebrews 12:1-4 is a continuation of Hebrews chapter 11 often referred to as the HALL OF FAITH! When you study down through the ones listed there you will clearly see that they faced DISCOURAGING TIMES TOO. Note verses 32-40. Chapter 12 begins by telling us to look at those in the HALL OF FAITH (The Cloud of Witnesses) to see how they succeeded in the face of discouragement and to also LOOK UNTO JESUS for our own strength in discouraging times.

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NOTE: “LOOKING UNTO JESUS” does not just mean to look at Who He is, but to EXERECISE THE DEGREE OF FAITH as those listed in chapter 11 did in order to accomplish life successfully in the face of discouragement.

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I. THE EFFORT IN LOOKING UNTO JESUS – VS. 2a

“LOOKING” – CONTINUAL OBSERVATION BY AVOIDING DISTRACTION.

- A. By Focusing on Christ – HIS CHARACTER – Hebrews 7:26
 - 1. Holy- Without Sin
 - 2. Harmless – Meek
 - 3. undefiled – No spiritual filth
 - 4. Separate – Godly
 - 5. Made Higher than the Heavens – Exalted
- B. By Examining Christ –HIS RELATIONSHIPS
 - 1. Toward Sinners – Luke 19:1ff
 - 2. Toward Believers – John 13:1
 - 3. Toward The Father – John 4:34
- C. By Watching Christ – HIS ACTIONS – The Gospels
 - 1. He Exalted the Father – John 17:4
 - 2. He Was Gracious toward the Sinners – John 8:11
 - 3. He Was Merciful with the Needy – John 6:1-13
 - 4. He Was Direct with the Religious – Matthew 23:23-29

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE ESSENCE OF LOOKING UNTO JESUS – VS. 2b

WHAT DO WE SEE IN JESUS?

- A. He is the Author of our Faith
 - 1. Christ originated our faith
 - 2. Christ is the leader of our faith
- B. He is the Finisher of our Faith
 - 1. He did all that was needed to complete the task
 - 2. He Returned back to Heaven

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE EFFECT OF LOOKING UNTO JESUS – VSS. 3,4

HE ENDURED THE CROSS IN THE FACE OF THOSE WHO RESISTED HIM.

A. When we Look Unto Jesus we are Encouraged

B. When we Look Unto Jesus we are Strengthened

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

- 1) Looking at the world around us will discourage us and lead us to failure.
- 2) Looking unto Jesus will encourage us and lead us to victory.