

## Those Whom the Lord Loves

Hebrews 12 - *Discipline*

### Two Leading Questions:

1. Do I want to be a better son or daughter of God?
2. What are the saints of old (Hebrews 11) waiting on?

### I. Therefore... (vv. 1-3)

Two weighty *character cards*: faith and obedience/discipline.

Old vs. New <b>Hebrews 1-10</b> <i>Better temple, priest, sacrifice, covenant</i>	→	Faith <b>Hebrews 11</b> <i>Motivation (Hebrews 12:1-3): - cloud of witnesses - Jesus</i>	→	Discipline <b>Hebrews 12</b>
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Faith is our motivation to accept discipline.

- Cloud of witnesses* (v. 1) - Are they watching us? – *martus*
- witness (*legal*), martyr (*ethical*), or record (*historical*)
  - in Hebrews, it's an act of *telling*, not *seeing*
  - academic: they're telling, but God is watching

### II. The pain of discipline (vv. 4-6)

*Paideia* (v. 6):

- criticized or castigated (*words*)
- chastened (*evils, afflictions, calamities*)
- scourged (*blows*)
- to *paideuo* – children, literally, to treat like a child

Disciplined heroes:

- Abraham – Genesis 21, 22 – Beersheeba - \_\_\_\_\_
- Moses – Numbers 20:12 – Rock - \_\_\_\_\_
- David – 2 Samuel 12:11 - Absalom - \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul – Acts 9:15-16, 2 Cor 11:22-30 - \_\_\_\_\_
- Samson – Judges 16:28-30 – \_\_\_\_\_
- Countless others – Hebrews 11:32-38 - \_\_\_\_\_

### III. The source of discipline (vv. 7-10a)

- Immediate cause: people and events  
“*Hostility by sinners*” (v. 3)
- Ultimate control: God  
Not *repair*, but discipline – Romans 8:17, 28

God disciplines through *instruments*:

- Natural events (*calamity*):
  - o 2 Samuel 24, Deuteronomy 32, Psalm 46:8, Nehemiah 13:18
- The *will* and *works* of *man*:
  - o Exodus 8-14, 1 Samuel 18:10, 1 Kings 22

### IV. The purpose of discipline (vv. 10b-11)

It hurts Him more than it hurts you – Genesis 6:5-8

- Ultimate goal: the sin, not the discipline, hurts you equally

His love, for our holiness (v. 10b)

- That we live restful and wrestling lives
- That we know the shepherd's voice (John 10)

*The Problem of Pain*

“...*He must labor to make us loveable.*”

Don't dare give Satan the credit

The saints are waiting on us (Hebrews 11:39-40)

### V. The response to discipline (vv. 12-13, 1-3, 25-28)

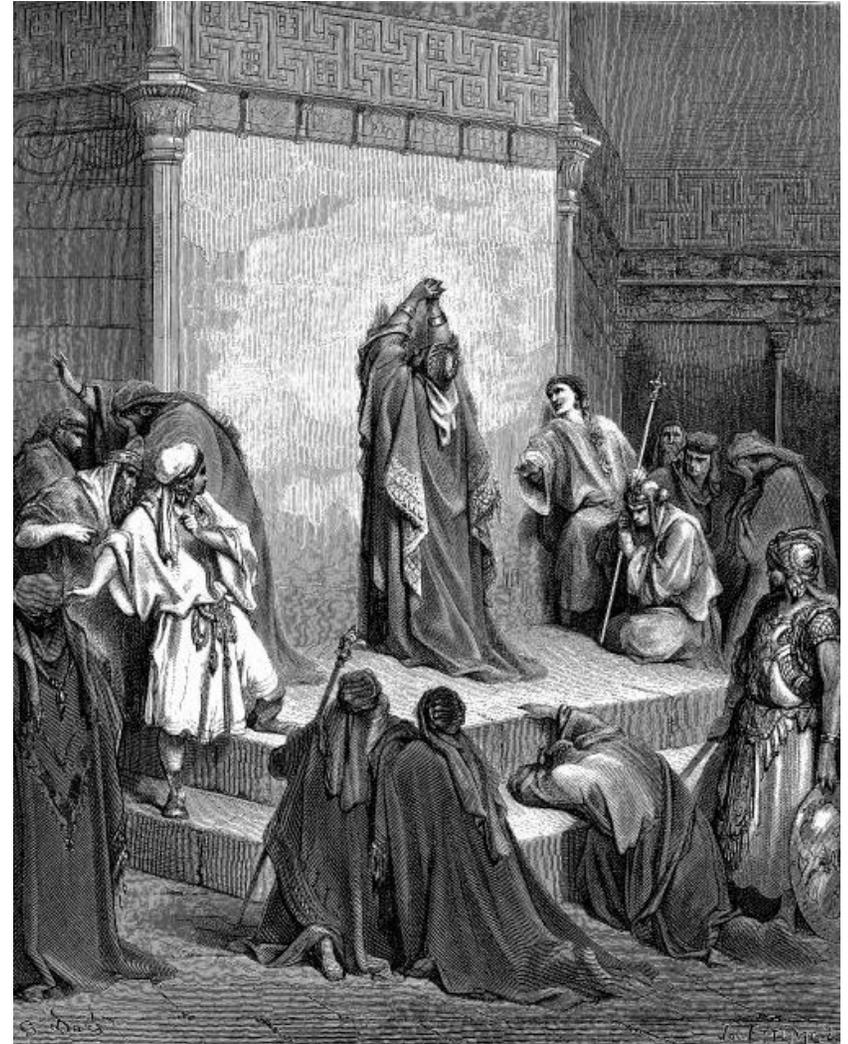
1. Lose weight (*ogkos* – oppressive bulk)  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
Don't just ask “*is it sin?*” - ask “*does it help me run?*”
2. Gain strength  
Hebrews 12:12-13
3. Pay attention  
Hebrews 12:25  
Do not refuse Him nor *waste* your trials
4. Show gratitude  
Hebrews 12:28

# Those Whom the Lord Loves



*“This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”*

Acts 9:15-16  
Acts 27



*“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son.”*

Hebrews 12:6  
Proverbs 3:11-12  
2 Samuel 12:11