

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

UNTO THEE LIFT I UP MINE EYES

PSALMS 123

Text: Psalms 123:1

Psalm 123:1

¹ ***Unto thee lift I up mine eyes***, *O thou that dwellest in the heavens.*

Introduction:

It is not until we read verse 4 that we discover the burden of the writer: the constant persecution of the people of Israel, being treated with scorn and contempt.

In Psalm 124, Israel was almost swallowed up, drowned, and imprisoned in a trap.

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In Psalm 124, Israel was almost swallowed up, drowned, and imprisoned in a trap.

This psalm speaks about the God who is enthroned in heaven whose hand would work for His people, and you find both of these themes in Ezra and Nehemiah.

When we find ourselves among the slandered, ridiculed, and persecuted, where do we turn for help? The psalmist states in verses 1-2:

Psalm 123:1-2

¹ ***Unto thee lift I up mine eyes***, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. ² ***Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God***, until that he have mercy upon us.

The psalmist understood that their help would come from the Lord, and that they needed to continue to look to Him.

Turn to Hebrews 12:

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*
² ***Looking unto Jesus*** *the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured*

the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Note this same thought – Looking Unto Jesus

There are three things I want to consider from this passage tonight.

Sermon Content:

1. THE SPECTATORS IN LIFE'S RACE (VS. 1)

Hebrews 12:1

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

“A "great cloud of witnesses" means a grandstand full of people who are watching us.

There are some debate on who this crowd may be. I personally believe if referring to those who have gone on before us.

He has already spoke about those from the past in Hebrews 11.

I thinks the Able is cheering us on; Enoch and Noah and Abraham and Sara, Isaac, Joseph, Jacob, Moses, Rehab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel and

so many other watching us, cheering us on, looking at us, and telling us to “run with patience the race that is set before us.”

But whether or not the author is speaking of the past who had gone on to Heaven, there are people who are watching us.

With this great crowd watching us may we run such a way as to not tarnish the name of our Lord.

Note not only the Spectators in Life’s Race but secondly:

2. THE STRATEGY FOR LIFE’S RACE

Hebrews 12:1

*¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight,** and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

There are three things in our strategy that we need to learn.

A. Discipline

We are to lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us.

The word “weight” are things that are not bad in and of themselves, they are just weights.

Illustration:

There is nothing wrong wearing an overcoat. There is nothing wrong in wearing hip boots, but no one in a race would wear either of these.

There are things in life that are necessarily sinful, but they are not helpful or beneficial.

It these things that we need discipline to lay aside.

B. Determination

Hebrews 12:1

*¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, **and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

We are to also lay aside the sin which so easily besets us.

This is easily understood. We are not to desire sin, but rather despise sin.

Note not only must we learn Discipline but also:

C. Direction

Hebrews 12:1

*¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us,***

God has given each of us a race.

I'm to run my race, and you are to run your race.

Every man has a race that he must run.

Every woman has a race set before her.

Everything that God commands He empowers us to do. When Paul came to the end of his life he said, "I have finished my course."

We read about the Spectators and Strategy in Life's Race note lastly:

3. THE STRENGTH FOR LIFE'S RACE

Hebrews 12:2

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The strength we find in looking unto Jesus.

The reason is because He is the Author of our faith.

The word “Author” means example.

- He's the One Who ran the race before us.
- He's the One Who endured the agony of the cross.
- He's the One Who kept on keeping on because of the joy that was set before Him.

When a runner is running toward the goal, he puts his eyes on the goals.

He doesn't look to the grandstand.

He doesn't look at the other runners.

He doesn't even look at himself.

He has his eyes on the goal, and he looks away from everything else.

And that's exactly what we're to do.

Look away from everything else and look unto Jesus, depending upon the Lord Jesus Christ!

Close:

Would to God we could say, "My eyes are on the One
Who did die for me, Jesus Christ.

And I have eyes for no one but Him!

And I will bravely run the race, looking unto Jesus and
nothing else, because He is the Author and He is the
Finisher of our faith