

Intro

V1 – Running

V2 – Looking

V3 – Carefully Considering

~ In context we're all competing in a race as God's children. As we run we look to Christ and consider him and what he endured so we don't get self-focused and think things are worse than they are. We keep from focusing ourselves by focusing our attention on Christ who endured sinner hospitality and satanic hospitality

~ As we run there's the need for endurance. We need something to occupy our mind to help us endure the difficulty of the race. Our consideration is Christ.

Grammar

~ Consider (357 analogizomai) to consider attentively, It means to reckon up; to consider in the way of comparison.

~ Vincent's - Look unto him, for a comparison with him will show you how much more he had to endure than you have.

~ If we don't look to Christ first in Heb 12:2 we won't have the right comparison for our problems

~ Him that endured (hupomone)

~ Contradiction (485 antologia) this word is also translated as opposition, rebellion and hostility

~ The contradiction of sinners was the cross the opposition, rebellion and hostility by means of sinners who put him there. There was also the spiritual enemy who put Christ on the cross

~ The gospels detail for us the contradiction Christ endured in Matthew 4 and 26

Outline - Considering Christ

1 Christ endured sinner hostility – Matt 26

2 Christ endured satanic hostility - Matt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13

3 We really haven't suffered either of these two

Body

1 Christ endured sinner hostility

~ If we start at Matthew 26 we see the hostility of sinners against Christ

- Matt 26:3-5 the chief priests, scribes and elders consulted to take Jesus deceitfully and kill him
 - Hostility from religious leaders
- Matt 26:6-13 when Jesus was anointed with the alabaster box for his burial the disciples were filled with indignation and thought it was a waste to use this ointment for the purpose it was used
 - Hostility from his own disciples
- Matt 26:14-16 Judas betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (the price of a slave)
 - Hostility from Judas the betrayer
- Matt 26:31-35 during the Passover Meal Peter vows to never betray Jesus. He did so three times
 - Hostility from Peter
- Matt 26:36-46 While Jesus was praying in Gethsemane his three closest friends and disciples all slept on him and were too weak to pray with him
 - Hostility from the three because they failed under spiritual warfare
- Matt 26:47-56 Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested
 - Hostility again from Judas, soldiers, chief priests and the elders
- Matt 27:57-68 Jesus is brought before Caiaphas the high priest and put on trial. They try to find cause to have him put to death (v59). Some of the people spit in his face, hit him and hit him with the palms of their hands. He also mocked for saying he's the Son of God
 - Hostility from the religious leaders
- Matt 27:69-75 Peter denies knowing Jesus three times. Luke 22:61 tells us that when Peter denied Christ the third time Jesus looked at Peter and Peter remembered the word of Jesus warning Peter
 - Hostility from Peter

2 Christ endured satanic hostility (Matthew 4:1-11)

~ Christ here was tempted by the most powerful force of evil there is ...the devil, Satan, the evil one

- ~ There's three names used for the devil in this passage tempter (v3), the devil (v5) and Satan (v10)
- ~ There's three temptations – God's provision (v3-4), God's protection (v5-7) and God's protection (v8-11)
- ~ These three temptations correspond to what John says in 1 John 2:16 about the lust of the flesh, eyes and pride of life

1 The first test has to do with God's provision – food

- ~ Jesus had fasted for 40 days and was now hungry so the tempter tempted Jesus with physical food
- ~ It was not the Father's will for him to have food yet so Jesus quoted Deut 8:3, "man doesn't live by food alone but by every word of God."
- ~ More important than physical food is the spiritual food I find in God's Word

2 The second test has to do with God's protection – make God prove is care for you be being rash and careless and thereby making God prove his care for you

- ~ The devil HALF quotes Psalm 91:11,12 to tempt Jesus to carelessly throw him into God's care
- ~ Jesus quoted scripture in the first temptation to defeat the devil so the devil decides to take this tactic to tempt Christ to demonstrate his trust in God. Satan uses scripture also but he twists it and leaves out the whole scripture to appear spiritually authentic in his temptation. The devil can adjust his tactics on the fly
- ~ Back in the Garden of Eden the serpent and Eve misquoted scripture (Genesis 3:1-5)
- ~ Jesus quoted Deut 6:16

3 The third test has to do with God's promise

- ~ God's plan from eternity past was to redeem man back to himself through Christ. As a result of Christ would be promoted to a place and position of glory and honor at his Father's right hand (Phil 2:5-11). God made Adam the title keeper of the earth in the garden. He was responsible for it but when he sinned that title deed got handed over to Satan and now he's the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4). Satan offered the title deed of earth back to Christ so Christ wouldn't have to endure the suffering of the cross. Satan offered glory (Matt 4:8) without needing the cross. This would've been possible if Jesus would just bow down now and worship the devil. Satan was challenging God's promise to Christ that all the world will one day bow down before Christ the King of Glory (Psalm 22:27-31; 25:7-11). The devil challenged that this promise wouldn't come to pass
- ~ Jesus quoted Deut 6:13,14

Conclusion

3 We really haven't suffered either

- ~ Albert Barnes - Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin - The general sense of this passage is, "you have not yet been called in your Christian struggles to the highest kind of sufferings and sacrifices. Great as your trials may seem to have been, yet your faith has not yet been put to the severest test. And since this is so, you ought not to yield in the conflict with evil, but manfully resist it."
- ~ In regards to hostility from sinners – we may have been mistreated and judged but we haven't had to endure the kind of suffering Christ did from the sinners who hated him, plotted to kill him and crucified him
- ~ In regards to hostility from Satan – we've all been tempted to sin but not to the same degree Jesus had endured. He was sinless and experienced a different type of temptation any of us have experienced. This temptation here in Matthew 4 and in the Garden of Gethsemane were intense. In the garden the demonic warfare was so intense that his physical body sweat blood (Lk 22:44). We've never experienced that kind of spiritual warfare
- ~ I don't believe we have personally been tempted by the devil himself. He most likely has junior demons assigned to us. The seven sons of Sceva were attempting to cast out demons in the name of Jesus. But the demon said, "Jesus and Paul I know but I don't know who you are."
- ~ We haven't had to deal with hostility of sinners or Satan to the degree Christ endured
- ~ We consider for comparison's sake our race. Our race may involve difficulty and suffering. But when we compare our trials with Christ's trials we'll discover and be reminded that Christ endured the cross to the point of shedding blood and we haven't. The Hebrews Christians at this point hadn't. So lest they get discouraged in their suffering they need to consider Christ's suffering and how much more difficult they are than their own
- ~ If we fail to consider Christ we'll get weary and we'll faint
- ~ The big idea here is comparing our sufferings with Christ's sufferings
- ~ If we compare ourselves to people we'll come up short or too big. So, we compare ourselves to Christ the standard
- ~ If we don't consider Christ we'll get weary physically and faint mentally in our sufferings