

Let nothing hinder you...RUN TO WIN!

Evangelist Matthew Longmore

Main Scriptures: Philippians 3, Proverbs 4: 12, 1 Corinthians 9

Supporting scriptures:

Notes:

If you are looking for your own resources then it is impossible to enter into heaven. As we look at this race ahead of us let's ask if there is anything hindering you?

This rich young ruler will be running this race but he will be disqualified because he made a choice not to run in line with the rules.

Whose lane are you running into today? Are you looking in the eyes of Jesus or are you running based on the person beside you?

Jesus is the only one that can tell what we are lacking. Another man may not have a problem with the riches, but God looks at me and recognizes this is still an idol so he is asking me to clear the idols out of my way.

Sometimes it's the little foxes of pride or thinking we are better than others or a spirit of discontentment. Are we content with the life God has given to us? Are we still looking in other people's lanes? If our focus shifts to another lane we will miss the prize he has given us.

"There are those that will teach that gain is godliness" 1 Timothy 6:5

"But godliness with contentment is great gain " - 1 Timothy 6:6

Sometimes our list of needs is a list of greed. God is saying to remove this from our lives. Look at the Apostle Paul, who started out following the law of Moses. Philippians 3 says he was a Pharisee and could quote the law verbatim, he was focused on the word but one thing he lacked - he did not have a relationship with the Lord. So he runs this race more zealous more than any of his companions but running out of line. He thought he was running well but on his way to Damascus a great light shone from heaven and Paul was knocked to the floor he knew this was God.

He asked who are you and God responded "I am Jesus" and Paul holds on to this revelation and now wants to align himself with Him and Him alone. He is not going back into Damascus but looking at Jesus and asking him to correct his form. Jesus says now I can train you now that you are ready to follow instructions. The encounter was so powerful he was blinded and now he must understand that following his voice makes the difference. Do you feel like you are being guided by the spirit of truth? Instruction requires humility and obedience. If you have obedience before humility then you will obey with a lot of pride. But Jesus knocked him to his feet and allowed him to understand that to follow me requires humility. The best runner is a blind runner. Jesus did nothing until the spirit showed him what to do.

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David Brown is the fastest runner is blind - he has to run with his trainer and he runs well. He runs so in sync with his trainer it looks like one person. I can't allow my past to determine my future. Sometimes it's the past failures that are running with you and not the spirit of God. The spirit of failure comes to cripple us and so we don't give all our energy because all our energy is given to failure. But Paul says forgetting those things behind. If Paul allowed his failure in Stephens death to keep a grip on his mind he would not be able to move past that memory. There will be times when you feel like giving up and in those moments you must remember one thing.

It doesn't matter how you started a race because the just man will fall 7 times but he will get back up again. How many times will you allow what you have gone through to pull you down. Jesus says look at me and get up now. Jesus knows what it is like to fall under a cross but he said take up your cross and keep going. See yourself holding on to the hand of Jesus. In this race, we will visualize Jesus - Looking unto Jesus going through the process and carrying us with him.

We have to be willing to let go of all the things that hold us back. What are you entertaining in your spirit? Sometimes what you entertain is based on what we have experienced but Jesus is saying I'm not like your earthly father.

What queue words are you using when frustration sets in you can recite the word during the race.

2013 - when bombs were dropping people kept to the path of the race to obtain the prize. How many are willing to keep going when all hell is breaking loose? Paul says "I press" he is doing resistance training because they understand that it is the resistance that builds the muscle. It's in those hard times that Jesus is saying I'm destroying the enemy.

Satan is always trying to provide an easy way out - where is your help coming from? We must go through hardships if we don't go through hardships we can not be qualified for this track. I can do it because Jesus did it. Let go of everything you think that will help you and look to Jesus. look around you will see we are almost at the finish line. We're in the last leg of the race and Jesus is saying come on just focus on me. Push until you reach that line. I'm about to come. Keep on focussing on me. This is the last hour, the last lap those who run well will finish well. How are you running today? Let nothing separate you from the prize.