

Lent Devotion for Wednesday, April 5

## Hebrews 12:1-3

### TRUE PERSEVERANCE

*“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”*

At first glance, this call to perseverance feels to us more like discipline than encouragement. It reminds us that we have repeatedly failed at throwing off sin and everything else that hinders me. But a closer look at what comes just before and after that command reveals that this passage is not about trying harder to live a good life on our own strength. Instead, this passage defines perseverance as living with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Just before these verses, in chapter 11 the author of Hebrews led us on a walk down the Hall of Faith. The author pointed out multiple people who are remembered forever in Scripture, not because of what they did, but because of what God did. The faithful who have gone before us stand as witnesses to the fact that God does not expect us to be good enough to be used by him. In fact, working through sinners who trust in him is one of God’s favorite things to do.

Immediately after the command to run with perseverance, the author of Hebrews gives us a picture of what perseverance looks like: continually looking at Jesus. Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. He is God among us who demonstrated and made possible human life reconciled with God. Through repeatedly coming to Jesus, despite how we feel or how much we have strayed away, he will transform us into people who are less and less entangled by sin. Persevering is not having a perfect record to bring before Jesus. The perseverance we are called to is living with our eyes fixed on Jesus, so that he can guide us through any hurdles we encounter.

*Lord, thank you that I do not need to be perfect to come before you. Help me to continuously fix my eyes on you, so that you would lead me deeper in my faith. Amen.*