

## A Prescription against Loathing Life

Hebrews 12:3-4

Have you noticed the number of suicides in our community? Are you aware of the number of people who are depressed or weary with life? This is not a problem of just the lost. We have seen how *the Christian life* is like an intense wrestling match, full of ups and downs. In our text, the very first word *for* connects verses 1 and 2 to our text. The author of Hebrews knows that you and I may well grow weary.

*For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. You haven't yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.*

The word *weary* is used in *The Septuagint* in Job 10:1 where Job says, "I loathe life." It is quite possible for even the strongest believer to get pinned to the mat and come to the place of loathing his existence. The author of Hebrews is quite concerned that you will not "grow weary and lose heart" as a Christian.

### I. Consider Jesus

The word translated "consider" here is a mathematical term. We get our English word *analyze* from this word. It means to weigh proportionately, to compare, and then to consider again with intensity. Similar to the way you work out a math problem, you work out how Jesus handled Himself in His life.

#### A. Consider His honor, beauty and sacrifice – "consider Him."

We would never be able to estimate the riches of God, but He Himself "became poor" for us! "The angels wondered that the Infinite became an infant. He, upon whose shoulders the universe hangs, chose to hang at His mother's breast. He who created all things, and bears up the pillars of creation, chose to become so weak that He must be carried by a woman!" (Charles Spurgeon)

#### B. Consider the hostility against Him – "who has endured such hostility by sinners."

He endured Satan's temptations. He endured the betrayal of a friend. He endured the mockery and slander of Pilate's judgment hall. He endured rejection from His people. He endured Calvary. The word *hostility* is translated *contradiction* in the KJV. He endured the *contradiction* of sinners. The contradiction was "against Himself" (v. 3). This means He could have squashed all opposition. There is a song that goes "He could have called ten thousand angels." He could have. He did not.

#### C. Consider His humility in life – "He endured such hostility by sinners against Himself."

In his book *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis points to errors that Christians make in defining humility.

1. Some define humility as "*thinking less of oneself*." (i.e. "I'm just a little ole nobody.")

Lewis is irritated by such thinking. He writes that thinking less of oneself is not humility at all.

2. Others define humility as "*thinking more of oneself*" because of God's grace.

These people say things like, "I'm a child of the King, so I'm somebody pretty special!" C.S.

Lewis says that this group of Christians comes closer to an understanding humility than the former group, but both groups miss defining true humility. According to C.S. Lewis:

**Humility is not thinking more or less of oneself; humility is thinking of oneself less.**

### II. Compare Yourself

We are told in v. 2 to take our eyes off of ourselves (abilities), but here we are to look at ourselves. "You haven't yet resisted to the point of shedding blood (a reference to the Garden of Gethsemane) in your striving against **sin**" – wait a second! Striving against sin? What does that mean? What sin? All sin can be boiled down to pride. **Pride is thinking of oneself more than others.** This is the fight. When you fight (and win) thinking of yourself and become selfless, you find a life that is worth living.