

What's Your Race

Abounding Hope - Week 7 (2-7-24)

Hebrews 12:1-3

I. We Need to Know our Race

A. Jeremiah 1:5

- a) God has a race for us to run that is just as unique as our own fingerprint.

B. Your race is "baked in"

- 1. Everything that the mighty Oak tree will ever be is already pre-programmed into the acorn.
- 2. Romans 11:29
 - a) Repentance = ameta-meleto - About which no change of mind can take place, not to be repented of.

C. Zig Ziglar - "If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time."

- 1. If we don't take the time to listen to what God is calling us to, we will have nothing to aim at. Even the worst archer in the world will get closer to the mark than someone without a target.
- 2. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
 - a) Verse 26 (AMP) "Therefore I do not run without a definite goal; I do not flail around like one beating the air [just shadow boxing]."

D. Finding Your Race

- 1. Pursue God - Matt. 7:7-11
- 2. Seek counsel from someone more spiritually mature.
 - a) Many times God will use other believers to affirm our own spiritual gifting.
- 3. Learn what your gifts are. Take a spiritual Gifts Assessment. 1 Corin. 12:8-10 and Eph. 4:11
 - a) Learn all that you can about your specific gift
 - b) Find out what you can do to hone in on that gift
- 4. Let God show you how your gift fits into your life and the body as a whole.

II. Do Your Part

A. Just because God has a set irrevocable race for you to run, that doesn't mean that it will automatically happen.

- 1. Mark 10:17-31
 - a) He only lacked one thing, but it was the one thing that he was unwilling to let go of.
 - (1) He trusted more in his possessions than he did in God and His ability to provide.
 - b) He refused to run the race that Jesus Himself laid before him to run.

III. Know The Purpose of Your Race

A. Your race may be specific to you but it is there to benefit the church.

- 1. 1 Corinthians 12:7-26

a) Verse 7 - It is given to EVERY man.

(1) To profit WITHALL

B. Exodus 19:5-6

1. A Priest's role is to go to God on behalf of other people.

2. God's plan was always to work through people that served Him in order to reach the whole world. We are Priests to this world!

C. Eph. 4:11-13