The Letter To The Hebrews Dangers We Face On The Race Hebrews 12:12-17

Introduction

Throughout history men and women have lived by faith in God, and He has forgiven then, strengthened them, and rewarded them.	Therefore run with endurance the race God set before us	Every trial involves God's loving training which brings you great reward.	Therefore avoid these five dangers as you run the race
11:1-28	12:1-2	12:3-11	12:12-17

In Hebrews 12:12-178 the author describes five dangers we face as we run the race, and tells us how to deal with each of them —

The danger of becoming discouraged by trials so we stop running (v.12)

Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees

The danger of allowing obstacles to hinder our running (v.13)

Make straight paths for your feet

The danger of developing conflicts with others who are running (v.14a)

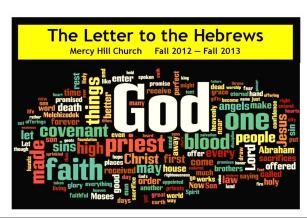
Strive for peace with everyone

The danger of forgetting why it's so important to keep running (v.14b)

Strive for the holiness without which we won't see the Lord

The danger of ignoring those who turn aside from the race (vv.15-17)

See to it that no one turns aside from the race.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Which of these five dangers is most relevant to you now? Why? What's going on?

What are some ways trials can make us stop running? How does it help to understand the "therefore" — that every trial involves God's loving training?

Can you think of a time when your choices made your race path crooked? Are there things you could do not to make your path more straight? What's keeping you from making those changes?

Is there anyone involved in the race with whom you are not at peace? Do you understand how damaging that can be? What steps can you take to pursue peace with them?

Do you understand why, without holiness, you will not see the Lord? Why does that not mean that we are saved BY being holy? Do you understand how genuine faith WILL produce holiness? How much have you been — by faith— pursuing holiness? How could you pursue holiness more?

Is there anyone you know who might be failing to obtain the grace of God? Who might be a root of bitterness who could potentially harm others? Who might, like Esau, be drifting into willful sin? What is God calling you to do about this?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

