

LENT PT 4 | GIVING AWAY

Hebrews 12:1-3:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

It feels great to de-clutter our lives/homes/gardens/inboxes, but unless we are careful, those things will be replaced with more clutter ready for next year's spring clean. The writer of Hebrews helps us here. With the strong directive to throw off that which is holding us back from God, comes an equally strong directive about what to fill that void with. We are to run with perseverance, fix our eyes on Jesus, and are to consider his endurance so that we too can endure the race marked out for us. We don't need more clutter, we need more of Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

REFLECTION + DISCUSSION

Read Hebrews 11. Who is in this "great cloud of witnesses"?

What is the difference between things that hinder, and sin that entangles?

What did the writer mean when they said "run with perseverance?" Does it look the same for everyone?

How can we fix our eyes on Jesus? Matthew 14:22-32

What joy did Jesus endure the cross for? What joy can we take from the cross?

