



Journey to the Cross Part 3: For The Joy Set Before Him

March 7, 2021

Notes:

WWJD?

Fundamentally, the gospel is the revelation of who God is, who we are, and how we can be reconciled to him. Yet in the American dream, where self-reigns as king or queen, we have a dangerous tendency to misunderstand, minimize, and even manipulate the gospel in order to accommodate our assumptions and our desires. As a result, we desperately need to explore how much of our understanding of the gospel is American and how much is biblical.

And in the process we need to examine whether we have misconstrued a proper response to the gospel and maybe even missed the primary reward of the gospel, which is God himself.

David Platt, *Radical*

13 “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, Jeremiah 2:13

I am gentle and lowly in heart. Matthew 11:29

For the Joy Set Before Him

Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Hebrews 12:2 NLT

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up. 4 After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. Hebrews 12:1-4 NLT

The Race

Greek word for race is *agon* from which we get our word *agony*.

11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Hebrews 12:11 NLT

Adoption

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. Galatians 4:4-5 NRSV

A literal meaning of adoption in the Greek:

Louw and Nida's Lexicon: to formally and legally declare that someone who is not one's own child is henceforth to be treated and cared for as one's own child, including complete rights of inheritance.

Under the Roman law, the adoptive child had the following provision:

1. That child would be a permanent part of the family; parents couldn't disown a child they adopted.
2. An adopted child received a new identity. Any prior commitments, responsibilities and debts were erased.
3. New rights and responsibilities were taken on by the infant or child.
4. The concept of inheritance started now, not something that began at death. Therefore, being adopted made someone an heir to their father, joint-sharers in all his possessions and fully united to him.

God, your God, will restore everything you lost; he'll have compassion on you; he'll come back and pick up the pieces from all the places where you were scattered. Deuteronomy 30:3 MSG

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:14-17 NLT