

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE OLYMPICS

SERMON NOTES

Week 2 August 8, 2021

“The Thrill of Victory,
The Agony of Defeat”

Hebrews 12:1-2



I. Introduction

A. The apostles drew upon _____ from the Olympic Games in their times to teach about the Christian faith.

B. Victory often comes only in the aftermath of _____.

II. A New Perspective on Adversity

A. Trials expose the authenticity of our _____ in God.

B. Trials automatically _____ our faith.

C. James says "Let perseverance complete its _____ so that you will be complete."

III. Persevering Faith

A. Often the difference between persevering during difficult times and giving up are the _____ we are surrounded by.

B. Philip Yancey said “there’s only one thing worse than disappointment with God—that’s disappointment _____ God.”

C. Pray – God I need to _____ you in this.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *August 9-14, 2021*

INTRODUCTION

Most of the media attention during the Olympics focuses on the greatest athletes who are winning medals. But there are many more athletes who do not win medals. And many of the athletes that win medals had a difficult road that led to victory. What happens when those athlete's dreams don't come true? What lessons can we learn from them when our dreams don't come true?

Monday: Job 1 (full chapter)

Job experienced unimaginable tragedies in his life and yet he did not lose faith or confidence in God. Has your faith or confidence in God ever been tested? Did you pass? Did you emerge with your faith intact? If so, why? If not, why?

Tuesday: James 1:1-5

In this passage, James gives us advice on how to persevere in tough times. What stands out to you in v.2? Why? In addition to your faith being exercised and strengthened, what other positive outcome might result from your current trial(s)?

Wednesday: John 11:1-6

How does it make you feel when you read that Jesus loved Lazarus but didn't go to him in his time of need? Is the idea of God using human pain for his glory disturbing to you? Is this a new concept for you?

Thursday: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Proverbs 27:17

Do you have a community of people around you that can help you through trials and adversity? If not, how can you begin to cultivate those types of relationships?

Friday: Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:14-21

The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery notes that in Isaiah 61 "ashes symbolize deep sorrow; and the crown, oil, and garment all suggest preparations for joyous festival." When Israel came back from exile, Isaiah's words were partly fulfilled. Do you have confidence that God can bring beauty from the ashes with respect to trials in your life? Does this help you persevere through this difficult time?

MOVING FORWARD

Often times, what shapes our response to adversity in our lives is the support that we have around us during these experiences. Is there a community of people that help us frame these circumstances in a way for us to see that God is not doing something to us, but is doing something in us and through us? What can you do this week for individuals you know who are facing a faith-stretching trial?

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) metaphors, B) defeat. IIA) Confidence, B) exercise, IIC) work. IIIA) people, B) without, C) see.