

“Fixing Our Eyes On Jesus”

Hebrews 12:2a

April 21, 2019
Great Friday

VIDEO: “*Running*” (*per John Piper*)
3:00

INTRO: Welcome – that song/video was the perfect intro...

CONTEXT:

- Today is **GREAT** Friday...
 - Most important day... today **defines** eternity
 - Most impactful day... today **made** history
 - Most impartial day...today **divides** humanity
- Continuing Hebrews’ “**Hold On**” (ch.12)
 - Hebrews is a Friday & Sunday exhortation...
 - Hebrews is 1 big exhortation...
 - A warning wrapped in encouragement
 - Hebrews is 5 warnings/encouragement
 - Don’t **DRIFT**
 - Don’t **DISCONNECT**
 - Don’t **DILLY-DALLY**
 - Don’t **DISOBEY**
 - Don’t **DEFY & DENY**
 - Hebrews 10b, 11, & **12a** = Friday Focus

“...fixing our eyes on Jesus...”

Hebrews 12:1-2

*¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
²fixing our eyes on Jesus,*

BIG IDEA: *Saving faith has fixed eyes that are energized & empowered by Christ's finishing faithfulness on GREAT Friday!*

PREVIEW:

1. **Define:** *fixing our eyes on Jesus*
2. **Describe:** *fixing our eyes on Jesus*
3. **Defend:** *fixing our eyes on Jesus*

I. **DEFINE**

- a. Fixing our eyes

Definition: *to look away from all else*

*Fixing our eyes on Jesus gives us focusing filters
for faithful obedience! - JDP*

b. On Jesus

He is NOT...

- Insurance policy
- A 2nd opinion
- Teddy bear
- Task-masker
- Moral police-chief

He IS...

- * Jesus is LORD!
- * Creator Christ!
- * Almighty God!
- * Way, Truth, Life!
- * Sacrificial Lamb!

T/S:

VIDEO: *Jesus Rant*

3:25

To be totally & biblically clear...

Jesus is NOT one of many gods. NO!

Jesus, the Christ is the One true & living God. He is the singular & divinely-unique God-man, the seeking & saving LORD-of & LORD-over repentant & redeemed sinners. As foretold & fulfilled in Scripture, Jesus is the only One who rescues & restores people who believe & receive the truth-in-love of THE Gospel, as defined & defended in God's Word, the Holy Bible. - JDP

II. DESCRIBE

a. Fixing our eyes

Fixed vs. Flirtatious Eyes

i. Flirtatious Eyes:

1. **Drift** to & from distractions
2. **Disconnect** after discontentedness
3. **Dilly-dallying** with lesser things...
4. **Disobey** amidst deceiving...
5. **Deny** and **Defy** Christ & His Church

ii. Fixed Eyes:

1. **Follow by faith**, & run the right-race!
2. **BE the we...** the great cloud of witnesses
3. **Unentangled**, endurance-race-runners...
4. **I-3** Informed, inspected, & inspiring run...
5. **Victory in Jesus**, righteous-race-runners!

“The centrality of Christ in one’s life is BOTH the root and the fruit of saving faith.” - JDP

VIDEO: *It's Not Enough* (by Dustin Kensrue)

4:30

b. On Jesus

Hebrews 1:1-3 & 2:9

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

But we do see Jesus--made lower than the angels for a short time so that by God's grace He might taste death for everyone-crowned with glory & honor because of His suffering in death.

“Our” defines the righteous, right-race runners! – JDP

- Not all “runners” are running in the right race
- Not all “runners” run the right race righteously
- Not all “runners” finish the right race righteously

NOTE: The Roman guard and one of the 2 thieves were saved by grace through faith, as a direct result of watching, **not how Jesus rose from the dead, but by how He died!**

VIDEO: Friday Perspectives
9:00

III. DEFEND

a. Fixing our eyes

We tend to commit to that which our eyes remain connected to. – JDP

Fixing is a fundamental necessity for following.
– JDP

You’ll either fix your eyes... or compromise!
– JDP

“Our focus & fixations fuel & feed our faith...” - JDP

- We focus & fixate on what we want. - JDP
- Garbage in, garbage out!

EXAMPLES:

- Israelites start wandering... (after wishing...)
- Peter starts sinking... (after worrying)
- Martha starts grumbling... (after working)

Martha went from distracted to disgruntled!

*The work was not too much for Martha...
Martha made too much of the work.*

*What we do with Christ is far more important than
what we do for Christ.*

*If serving Christ makes us difficult to live with, then
something is terribly wrong with our service!* – Weirsbe

**“When we prioritize & obey the one right thing, the
Lord takes care of the rest & the results.”** - JDP

*“Beware the temptation to balance biblical
hindrances, encumbrances, & distractions... which,
by definition, are anything & everything that gets
in between you & your loving, Spirit-led,
faithful-obedience.”* - JDP

Beware the grumblers...

A heart that grumbles holds to a gospel that crumbles. -JDP

Toxic tongues, poisonous pessimists, and the devil's advocates are exactly that... toxic, poisonous, advocates of the devil. - JDP

VIDEO: Jesus Is Enough

4:00

b. On Jesus

Worship is at the heart of all that we are and all that we do in the Christian life. It is important that we be busy ambassadors, taking the message of the Gospel to lost souls. It is also essential to be merciful Samaritans, seeking to help exploited and hurting people who need God's mercy. But before we can represent Christ as we should, or imitate Him in our caring ministry, we must spend time with Him and learn from Him. We must "take time to be holy." - Bible Exposition Commentary

“When biblical salvation is at your core, beautiful sanctification engulfs you.” - JDP

Real gospel heart-change really changes hearts! - JDP

VIDEO: Jesus' Passion. (*Oh! How He loves us!*)

4:40

Faithful-faith follows. Real-repentance restores. And... True-love loves-to-love... & likes to obey! - JDP

CLOSE: Fix your eyes on...

- Pre-Creation, Creator-Christ
- Promised Problem-Solver Christ
- Purging & Purifying Christ (Noah)
- Picking & Protecting Christ (Abraham & Isaac)
- Prophet-Packing Christ (Moses +...)
- Patient (400 years) Perplexer Christ
- Promise-Keeper & Incarnated Christ
- Predicament-Overcoming Christ (tempted by Satan)
- Praying & Obeying Christ
- Preaching & Proclaiming Christ
- Profoundly “I Am” Christ
- Pursuing & fight-Picking Christ (He goes at Pharisees)
- Paratrooper Seeking & Saving Missionary Christ
- Priority-shifting, selfless-Servant Christ
- Proactively Protective, Armor-Sharing Christ
- Personal (Come to Me...) Christ
- Perspective & Paradigm shaping Christ

- Pre-packaging of Prerequisites Christ
- Pressing & Persistent Christ
- Pain-feeling & Compassionate (Laz) Christ
- Pruning & Proving Christ
- Performing-miracles Christ
- Passionate & Persecuted Christ
- Pouring-out & Persevering Christ
- Paying your Price Christ
- Perfect & Perfecting Christ
- Parakleet & Power-promising Christ
- Picky & Poignant Christ (7 letters)
- Pre & Post - Alpha & the Omega Christ
- Prophetic & Preeminent Christ

VIDEO: *Running The Race*
2:45

May we take everything in & out THROUGH the cross... and...
look away from all else

Let's Pray!

VIDEO: *Jesus Paid It All* (with paintings)