

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Hebrews 12:12-17

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Hebrews 12:12-17.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

**12** Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,

**13** and make straight paths for your feet,

so that *the limb* which is lame may not be put out of joint,  
but rather be healed.

**14** Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

**15** See to it

that no one comes short of the grace of God;  
that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble,  
and by it many be defiled;

**16** that *there be* no immoral or godless person like Esau,  
who sold his own birthright for a *single* meal.

**17** For you know that even afterwards,  
when he desired to inherit the blessing,  
he was rejected,  
for he found no place for repentance,  
though he sought for it with tears.

1. How is this passage related to the preceding larger section of the book (10:26-12:2)?

2. How is this passage related to the immediately preceding section (12:3-11)?

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3. Where is v. 12 quoting from? What is the context of Is 35 that this quote comes from? How does this relate to the context of Heb 12:12?
4. Why does the author of Hebrews command “strength” in this verse?
5. What does the command “make straight paths for your feet” mean in this context?
6. Why are they to “make straight paths”?
7. Why does the author call for them to “pursue peace with all men”? Why would this be significant given the circumstances of the original readers?

❖ Day 2

Read Hebrews 12:12-17 again.

8. What does the author mean that they are to “pursue sanctification”?

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9. How is the command to “pursue... the sanctification...” significant in this context?
10. How is the warning “...without which no one will see the Lord” significant in this context?
11. How is this warning significant theologically and for our understanding of sanctification?
12. What does the author mean with the command “see to it”? What are the readers of this book to “see to” according to vv. 15-16?
13. What does it mean to come short of the grace of God? If grace is not something we merit/earn, how can someone come short of it?

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14. What does bitterness have to do with this section of Hebrews? What is the result of bitterness according to v. 15? What does it mean to be defiled?

❖ Day 3

Read Hebrews 12:12-17 again.

15. Why is Esau singled out here? How does this contrast with Heb 11?
16. Read Gen 25:27-34 and Gen ch. 27. How does 25:27-34 reveal Esau's immorality and godlessness?
17. What did Esau not find according to v. 17?
18. How does this account of Esau in Gen 27 and Heb 12:17 inform our understanding of repentance?
19. How might this passage be helpful for a believer who is struggling or faltering in pursuing the Lord?

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20. Summarize the authors' intended meaning of this section in one sentence.

21. Summarize an appropriate response to this section in one sentence.