

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Read together: Hebrews 12:1-2; James 1:22-25

Leaders endure by returning their attention to Jesus, receiving His strength, and faithfully practicing their present assignment.

Notice where your attention goes

When ministry becomes difficult, our attention can move in several directions. We look backward and remember mistakes. We look around and compare our work with someone else's. We look inward and feel overwhelmed by what still needs to change. Before long, we are spending more energy measuring ourselves than following Jesus.

Hebrews 12 gives us a clear direction for the race: keep our eyes on Jesus. He is the source and perfecter of our faith. Endurance grows as we return our attention to Him and lay aside what keeps pulling us away.

Take a moment to notice what has occupied your thoughts this week. Is it a failure, another leader's success, or a responsibility that feels too large? Naming it honestly is a useful place to begin.

Learn without living in comparison

Our past can teach us. Other leaders can help us grow. But looking backward becomes unhelpful when we decide an old failure is the final word over our future. Looking around becomes unhelpful when another person's assignment makes us resent our own.

The question is what we do with what we see. If a mistake needs to be addressed, address it. If someone has something to teach you, learn from them. Then return to the work God has placed in front of you. You do not need to run somebody else's race to be faithful in yours.

That also changes the way we speak about other teams. We can celebrate their progress, ask good questions, and offer help. Their growth does not diminish the value of our own assignment. A church benefits when its leaders strengthen one another instead of keeping score.

Let the Word lead to action

James describes the danger of hearing the Word and walking away unchanged. Looking honestly at our lives matters, but reflection is meant to lead us somewhere. What response is God asking of us?

Perhaps you need to apologize. Perhaps you need to finish something you have delayed, ask for support, or change a habit that is wearing down your leadership. Choose a response you can actually practice. Receiving direction and taking one faithful step can help you move out of the cycle of comparison and self-criticism.

We also need strength that comes from God. Endurance is not a performance of being endlessly capable. Bring your weariness to Him. Let trusted people know where you are struggling. Keep returning to the One who gives the race its purpose.

Lead this week

Identify one distraction you need to lay aside and one act of obedience you need to practice. Put both into words. Ask someone you trust to pray with you and check in. The next faithful step may be quiet, but it still moves you forward with your eyes on Jesus.

Talk it through

Where has comparison pulled your attention? What would obedience look like in your present assignment?

One next step

Replace one comparison habit with a specific action your own team needs.