

HIGH SEAS #5

Kenny Luck

“Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls! In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through—all that bloodshed! So don’t feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children? My dear child, don’t shrug off God’s discipline, but don’t be crushed by it either. It’s the child he loves that he disciplines; the child he embraces, he also corrects. God is educating you; that’s why you must never drop out. He’s treating you as dear children. This trouble you’re in isn’t punishment; it’s training, the normal experience of children.”

Hebrews 12:2-7 MSG

SEEING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN...

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JEREMIAH: BRUTALLY HONEST BUT UNDAUNTED

“He shot me in the stomach with arrows from his quiver. Everyone took me for a joke, made me the butt of their mocking ballads. He forced rotten, stinking food down my throat, bloated me with vile drinks. He ground my face into the gravel. He pounded me into the mud. I gave up on life altogether. I’ve forgotten what the good life is like. I said to myself, ‘This is it. I’m finished. GOD is a lost cause.’ I’ll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness, the taste of ashes, the poison I’ve swallowed. I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—the feeling of hitting the bottom.” *Lamentations 3:13-21 MSG*

I _____.

But there’s one other thing I remember, and remembering, I keep a grip on hope: God’s loyal love couldn’t have run out, his merciful love couldn’t have dried up. They’re created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! *Lamentations 3:21-23 MSG*

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“I’m sticking with GOD (I say it over and over). He’s all I’ve got left.” Lam. 3:24 MSG

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“GOD proves to be good to the man who passionately waits, to the woman who diligently seeks. It’s a good thing to quietly hope, quietly hope for help from GOD.” Lamentations 3:25-26 MSG

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“It’s a good thing when you’re young to stick it out through the hard times. When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don’t ask questions: Wait for hope to appear. Don’t run from trouble. Take it full-face. The ‘worst’ is never the worst.” Lamentations 3:27-30 MSG

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“Why? Because the Master won’t ever walk out and fail to return. If he works severely, he also works tenderly. His stockpiles of loyal love are immense. He takes no pleasure in making life hard, in throwing roadblocks in the way.”
Lamentations 3:31-33 MSG

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Let’s take a good look at the way we’re living and reorder our lives under GOD. Let’s lift our hearts and hands at one and the same time, praying to God in heaven: ‘We’ve been contrary and willful, and you haven’t forgiven.’” Lam. 3:40-42 MSG

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“You came close when I called out. You said, ‘It’s going to be all right.’ You took my side, Master; you brought me back alive!” Lamentations 3:57-58 MSG

HONEST AND UNDAUNTED FAITH IN JESUS WINS THE BATTLE!

“For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.” 1 John 5:4-5 NLT

FOR DISCUSSION:

WHY DO WE BECOME VULNERABLE TO LIES FROM THE ENEMY WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES AREN’T CHANGING AS FAST AS LIKE OR WE ARE NOT GETTING THE ANSWERS WE WANT?

WHAT MAJOR LESSONS DOES GOD WANT TO TEACH US WHEN WE ARE “WAITING” ON HIM?

WHY SHOULD DECIDING TO FIGHT SPIRITUALLY INCLUDE BRUTAL HONESTY IN PRAYER?

HOW DOES KNOWING THERE IS A LOVING GOD AND FATHER BEHIND THE CIRCUMSTANCES YOU FACE BRING STRENGTH?

WHICH ASPECT OF TODAY'S STUDY CAN YOU APPLY TODAY? (SEE MAIN POINTS)