

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
THE FATHER'S LOVING DISCIPLINE
Hebrews 12:5-13

- 1. The Christian life – a long, hard race,
with encouragements from God – 12:1-3**
 - a. Believers who have gone before us (Chapter 11) testify to us:
God is faithful; run to the end and it will be worth all the pain.
 - b. Better yet: Look to Jesus who ran the race before you and won –
for you! - Your example AND source of strength!

- 2. A rebuke to forgetful complainers – 12:4,5**

You haven't *yet* been required to make the supreme sacrifice for Christ,
but you are complaining as if you have forgotten something very
important that you should understand (something told to you long
ago ... in Proverbs 3:11,12).

We DO forget important things we have been taught,
and we NEED to be reminded!

- 3. Accept the Father's loving discipline – 12:5b-13**
 - a. The Christian life is a Father-Son relationship -**
God the Father with His sons (through His Son).

 - b. In that relationship the Father loves His children – 12:6**
All He ordains and does for us springs for His heart of love.
Even the hard things, the painful things?
Yes, because ...

 - c. Out of His love the Father *disciplines* His children.**
Proverbs 3:11,12.
The words for "discipline" (noun & verb) occur **8 times** in vv.5-11.
The negative connotations here in Hebrews 12.
The broader concept (Ephesians 6:4) – training, education.

 - d. To be disciplined is the privilege of "sons." 12:7,8**
Fatherless children run loose and wild (or children whose fathers
do not love them enough to train them).
Suffering in your Christian life?
Rejoice that God is not "letting you go."

 - e. We honor our earthly imperfect fathers, therefore12:9f**
Important: God is the PERFECT Father who loves perfectly.

 - f. God's purpose in His discipline – 12:10,11**
To train us in holiness and produce in us the fruit of righteousness.
Our Father wants His children to be like Him!

 - g. Therefore: Don't give up. Buck up – 12:12,13**
and Look to Jesus (vs.2).