“Overcoming Discouragement”
Hebrews 12:1-3
Discouragement = living in shadows and spiritual darkness in life

1. **Shadow** = something blocking the light
2. **Challenge**: we must look PAST the blocking object or circumstance to SEE God’s hand at work!
Two “Shadows” in Christian Life
Hebrews 12:3

Growing weary – exhausted from day to day battles, flesh vs. Spirit, a temporary situation
* following Jesus on the straight, narrow

Losing heart – giving up – not trying anymore
* Joshua 6 – Walls of Jericho 6th day
* Naaman on his 6th dip in the Jordan (2 Kings 5:14).
Imagine the Temptation of Jesus for Discouragement

* the sting of *betrayal* by Peter, the disciples (3 years investment – disciples scattered)
* In the garden – “My soul is deeply grieved...” (Mark 14:34).

The sting of *the Father’s wrath*! “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:34).

* Our failures!
So How Did Jesus Manage?

For The Joy Set Before Him “set before Him”

“It will be WORTH it all...”

Endured the cross – not avoid – it was His purpose, His mission (Isaiah 53)

Despising the shame: to regard as negligible, worthless, or distasteful
How Can We Rally to Overcome Discouragement? Hebrews 12:1-2

“We have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us!” - Who is rooting for YOU?

Run with endurance

The race that is set before us!
Dump the **Weight** of Sin(s)! Vs. 1

Repent **from** sin; repent **to** God!

“When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer” (Psalm 32:3-4).

“**Search** me O God, **know** my heart (Ps. 139:23)
Fixing our eyes on Jesus! Vs. 2

The author of our faith – Concentrate on His attributes, His Power, His good will!

* the perfecter of our faith

How does He perfect your faith?

* James 1:2-3

Trials produce what? **Endurance!**

“Without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6)
Vs. 3 – “Consider Him Who Endured Such Hostility By Sinners Against Himself”

**Consider:**
* His lack of retaliation
  (1 Peter 2:21-24)
* Trusting the Father in suffering!
* The Father sees all, will bring justice
* Romans 8:28 – look beyond hostility in the shadows to see the victory
Bottom Line: **Hope pulls us onward!!**

How can we know **for sure**? The **resurrection**, just as He said!