

# Stepping up to the challenge

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,  
(Heb 12:1)

# Follow Jesus

- fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

(Heb 12:2-3)

- And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of righteousness*, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (*men of whom the world was not worthy*), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

- (Heb 11:32-40)

# Why should we then follow Jesus?

- So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life."
- (Joh 6:67-68)

# A life of the impossible

- There was no day like that before it or after it, when the LORD listened to the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.
- (Jos 10:14)
- "Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim *were* there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken."
- (Jos 14:12)

# Are you with God?

- He is called Emmanuel – God with us
- He promised He would never leave us
- He is for us
- Does this give us a sense of entitlement?
- , and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" He said, "No; rather I indeed come now *as* captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face
- (Jos 5:13-14)

# Are you really hungry for more?

**“ A world without God cannot wait for us to take the safe path. If we wait for someone else to take the risk, we risk that no one will ever act and that nothing will ever be accomplished.”**

E R McManus

- "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father.
- (Joh 14:12)