



I. Finishing Well - What is it?

Thank you for starting the first episode of the series Finishing Well! Below are notes from the script and some discussion questions to guide you to a deeper understanding of this reflection.

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

Starting well is great, but it is more important to stay on the course and Finish Well.

When the day arrives for each of us to meet our Maker, can we as Paul did, say, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith?”* (2 Timothy 4:7)

As we face troubles in our life, let’s hold on to God’s promise and assurance to Moses, *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”* (Deuteronomy 31:6)

It is a promise that even Jesus reassured us before He ascended to heaven.

“Truth be told, even if the pandemic had never happened or the year 2020 is to be removed from the calendar, don’t you think we all would have experienced some setback or the other? Don’t you think life would have tossed some unanticipated loss our way? There’s no doubt this would have happened.”

So, where does this idea of “finishing well” fit into all of this? It is about **persevering** on in the midst of difficulties. And with the grace of God, focusing energy on making the most of the situation we find ourselves. It is about completing our race well despite circumstances.

In this video, Jaywant limits himself to two thoughts on finishing well.

- I. **A great start does not guarantee a great finish!** To finish well in the race of life it really does not matter on how you started your race. There is no person in the world who had a greater start than King Solomon. He asked for wisdom and God not only made him the wisest man of his time, He also gave Solomon immeasurable wealth. No one possibly had a better start in life than Solomon the son of King David. But, this great start did not guarantee that he finished well.

We read that despite all his knowledge and wisdom he broke several rules that he knew very well that kings were commanded to follow as per the Mosaic law. This resulted in his accumulating innumerable wives and concubines that lead him to encourage idolatry. Rather than trusting God he put his trust in horses and chariots. The construction projects for his palace outweighed his expenditure on the temple and placed such a huge economic burden on the people that on his death the kingdom he inherited broke up forever.

Conclusion: a great start does not guarantee a great finish.

Joseph on the other hand had a very poor start. From the pit his brothers threw him into, to being sold as a slave, and ending up in Potiphar's palace, before landing in a prison cell on fabricated charges – it was a long road of trouble, setbacks and misery. But, in all of this Joseph's steadfast faith and dependence on God saw him finish his race as person of integrity. He ended up becoming a savior of so many people during the seven years of famine - both in his home country as well those in his adopted country. Conclusion: even a horrible start can have a great finish.

- 2. Leave a legacy that lives beyond the dash on your tombstone!** So, how do we define Finishing Well? In my opinion, it's about by God's grace, ending our race with integrity, peace and joy and hopefully leaving a legacy.

“Any visit to a graveyard is a sobering experience to the ones who are left behind. As we read what's written on different tombstones we realize the entire life of the person is reduced to a dash between the two important dates in their life. This is my Dad's tombstone. He finished his race quite early but finished very well. His legacy in the lives of several people, including me still lives. Finishing well is to have a legacy which lives beyond the dash on our tombstones.”

Spend a little more time reflecting on these thoughts and then continue digging deeper by reflecting on the following questions individually and then discussing them in your group.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can I know that I am staying on course to finish my race well??
- What are one or two things I can use as predictors or markers?
- What steps can I take to ensure the race of my life has “oversight” and “accountability”?
- What kind of legacy would I like to leave behind? List at least three of them.

CONNECT WITH US

- Ask questions: bystillwaters.always@gmail.com
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/JaywantMichael>