

FINISH STRONG



...Generously!

As we the rat race gains momentum, it's tempting to succumb to selfishness. We are tired, we are worried, and we are burnt out. We want to receive that boost of time, energy or money to get us through this final season. But the story of Rebekah flips this on its head. Rather than receiving something to finish strong, we could give something. Allowing both ourselves *and someone else* the opportunity to finish strong too.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Thinking Points

1. Is there an area of your life where you feel like quitting?
2. Consider Hebrews 12:1-3. How does God want us to finish? What does He suggest to help us do so?
3. We think that receiving something will give us a boost to help us finish strong - it's about what we can get, rather than what we can give. Read Genesis 24:12-22. Would you say Rebekah finished strong?

4. Rebekah is generous. She offers 2 ½ hours of heavy manual labour to help a complete stranger. Have you ever done something as generous? How did that make you feel?

When we live generously, the feeling we receive is something that spurs us on. Generosity isn't just for others – it's for us too. When we help someone to finish strong, we finish strong too.

NEXT STEPS

What would Rebekah say to us?

1

Live generously for others. Rebekah offered her time and her strength. What could you offer someone, that would help them out?

2

You can't walk the second mile, until you've walked the first. Look for opportunities to be generous, then go over and above to meet a need.

3

Give, regardless of who is watching. It would have been easy for Rebekah to be generous if she had the motivation of Isaac watching her, or if she knew there was a reward waiting for her on the other side. But Rebekah had no ulterior motive. She did it for someone else. For integrity and for God.

4

Don't underestimate the impact that a single decision can have. Her decision to be generous was an answer to someone's prayer. It impacted her life and the lives of others. God uses us to make massive impacts, if we choose to be generous.

Imagine if each of us chose to do one generous thing, to finish strong. Imagine the impact on your community. Will you ask God to show you opportunities to finish strong? What story do you want to tell, as you end 2020? Will you choose to live generously for others?