

Man Down, Man Up - Week 5

The Power to Keep Going – Jim Burgen

November 28, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Proverbs 27:17; Philippians 3:13; Hebrews 12:1-3.

// Message Summary

This week's message from Pastor Jim Burgen is the fifth and final week in the series titled, *Man Down, Man Up*. In the previous weeks we unpacked that both men and women have been equally created in the image of God. As image bearers of the King, God shares His authority with us to have dominion over parts of His kingdom. With that authority comes the responsibility of leaving a worthy legacy for those who come after us. Though this week was the end of a sermon series, it was really the beginning of a "from now on": a daily decision about what our lives will look like from this point forward. Jim encouraged us to add to our hope, to add to our faith, to add to our salvation - a plan. Jesus tends to change lives with us, not just for us. As we surrender each part of our lives to Him a King and Leader, He works to perfect those areas of our lives.

// Biblical and Historical Context

The writer of Hebrews begins his twelfth chapter with, "Therefore, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses...". The word "therefore" is a crucial transition word which connects the instructions of chapter 12 with the evidence of chapter 11. In chapter 11 we met the "great cloud of witnesses", who are often referred to as the "heroes of faith". From Abel to Noah, Abraham, Moses and even Rahab (who worked as a prostitute), these and other Old Testament men and women serve as evidence of the value and blessing of living by faith. The Hebrews writer takes this proof and gives us an instruction: *Therefore...* ("because of the legacy they have left for you"), throw off your hindrances and run your race with the perseverance, tenacity and integrity of those who have already gone before you.

// Community Questions

1. What is something that you are good at, that your group probably doesn't know about? Share the story about how you came to be so good.
2. If you were on Who Wants to be a Millionaire, who would your "phone-a-friend" be? Why do you say that?

// Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read Hebrews 12:1-3. What questions come to mind?
2. According to the passage:
 - a. What are some things that we should be doing so that we might reach our target in Christ?
 - b. What supports or encouragements are available to give us the power to keep going?
3. Jim spoke about times when we try... but fail. What thoughts tend to arise when we fail to reach our own targets in Christ?
4. Think about the motto, "All my life for Jesus."
 - a. How would your family look different if everyone lived by this?
 - b. How would your family look different if no one lived by this?
5. We are called to give all our lives for Christ, but what did Christ give all His life for?

What does that tell us about what is true and meaningful in life?

// Challenge

Proverbs 27:17 states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." We need to make a commitment to sharpen alongside good people.

1. **Commit to being in church every week** to continue to learn how to aim your life at Jesus. If you are already doing this consistently, think about who you could be doing it with. Outside of people from your household, get in touch with someone and say, "I'll see you at church, and I'll save you a seat so that we can do it together!"
2. **Get in a small group**, where you more closely get alongside people who are doing the same type of journey with you. There are dozens of groups all over Denver and Colorado (let's also give a shout out to our groups in Wyoming, Ohio and North Carolina!). Go to flatironschurch.com/groups to find yours, or ask a team person in the lobby at church.