



GUIA DE ESTUDO

Why We Do Hard Things

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BIG IDEA

God calls his people to endure hard things so others can hear the gospel, believe Jesus, and have salvation.

Running hard things toward a finish line

The preacher opened with marathon suffering: 26.2 miles, months of training in heat, cold, wind, rain, cramps, headaches, dehydration, and pain. He used that image to show why believers endure costly church work—because the finish line is worth it, just as the joy of crossing the line drew him back to run again.

Why the church chooses sacrifice

He asked why the church would do hard things like becoming a lone constituent church, investing heavily to build the school building on 198, and continuing to support that school by over \$1,200,000 a year. His answer was clear: since 2011, 222 students have made decisions for Jesus, and families like Kundwanee and Linda Malinke, and Matthew and Talia, have been baptized through those connections. The hard thing is worth it because people are meeting Jesus.

Paul's reason for suffering

Using 2 Timothy 2:8-10, he emphasized that Paul suffered for the gospel because the word of God is not bound and others might obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. He also cited Romans 9:3, where Paul said he could wish to be accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of his brothers. The preacher's point was not that believers should be careless with their own salvation, but that gospel love is willing to pay a price so others can be saved.



Running a marathon is a hard thing.

— Marathon suffering

PARA REFLEXÃO

Discuss together

1. What parts of the sermon's marathon image helped you understand gospel suffering?
2. Why did the preacher connect the school's sacrifices to the 222 students who have chosen Jesus?
3. What does Paul's statement in 2 Timothy 2:10 teach about enduring hardship for others?
4. Where do you see the temptation to do church for comfort, preference, or convenience instead of mission?
5. What would it look like for your family, class, or small group to make disciples intentionally this week?

Building the church for salvation, not comfort

He insisted that building the new church is not mainly about having more room or getting the organ back; it is about creating a place where the surrounding community can hear about Jesus and have salvation. He said the building will require financial sacrifice, compromise, patience, and openness to others' ideas. The goal is bigger than comfort: the church must become a tool for evangelism, just as the school was.



The church is Christ's appointed agency for the salvation of men.

— The church's mission

Being the church is harder than building it

He said the coming challenge is even harder than building a church: being the church. He quoted Ellen White's statement that the church is Christ's appointed agency for the salvation of men, and then tied that to Jesus' Great Commission. He brought in Dallas Willard's warning about the "great omission" and stressed that the singular job description of a disciple is to make other disciples. The global church initiative One Voice 27, Mission for All, was presented as a call for disciples witnessing to others so that others may also become disciples.

REFLEXÃO

Personal heart check

- Am I treating discipleship as optional or as my actual calling?
- Where have I chosen convenience over witness?
- What hard thing is God asking me to endure so someone else can meet Jesus?
- Do I see my church budget, buildings, and schedules as mission tools or as ends in themselves?
- How often do I pray for courage to be a witness with one voice?



The singular job description of a disciple is to make other disciples.

— The disciple's job

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

Concrete ways to live it

The preacher pressed listeners to search their calendars and ask what intentional actions they took last week to help someone move closer to Jesus. He named specific hard places: discipling one's own children when the home contains things contrary to Jesus, standing up at school despite ridicule or loss of friendship, and knocking on a neighbor's door even though it may feel harder than knocking on hundreds of doors. He also pointed to the church building on New Hampshire as a city on a hill, a light for the community, and said the point is to help people say yes to Jesus.

PARA REFLEXÃO

Where is the hard thing for you?

1. Who is one person you can intentionally move closer to Jesus this week?
2. What fear keeps you from witnessing to classmates, coworkers, or neighbors?
3. How can your home become more aligned with discipleship?
4. What sacrifice would be worth making if it helped someone meet Christ?
5. How can you support the church's building project as mission rather than merely architecture?

Caleb, Joshua, and the edge of the promised land

He used Numbers 13 to describe the spies who saw that the promised land flowed with milk and honey, but also contained strong people, fortified cities, and the descendants of Anak. Most of the spies gave a bad report and the people grumbled, but Caleb and Joshua urged trust in the Lord, saying the land was exceedingly good and God would bring them in. The preacher identified believers as the spies on the edge of the promised land: our job is not only to get ourselves in, but to bring others with us, even though it is a hard thing.



Brothers and sisters, we are the spies on the edge of the promised land.

— The sermon's main gospel challenge

REFLEXÃO

The promised land question

- Am I acting like one of the fearful spies or like Caleb and Joshua?
- Do I believe God is able to bring people into salvation through my witness?
- What “fortified cities” of fear, opposition, or discouragement keep me silent?
- How might my own suffering become part of another person's path to faith?

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

Witness through suffering and hope

He directly encouraged anyone suffering financially, physically, or emotionally to let the way they endure become a testimony that can lead someone to salvation. He named his own family's struggles, including Dayton's challenges and Christina's challenges, and said they trust Jesus' promise that he will make all things new. He explained that modern medicine is a gift, but there is no guarantee that bodies will be made new here; the sure hope is the return of Jesus. That hope should be spoken aloud to others who see believers suffer faithfully.

PARA REFLEXÃO

Hope under pressure

1. How can your current hardship become a witness rather than a barrier?
2. What would it sound like to tell someone, “Jesus is still alive and he's still on the throne”?
3. Why is the promise that Jesus will make all things new essential when suffering does not end quickly?
4. Who needs to hear the story of your faithfulness under pressure?

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Closing prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for calling your people to endure hard things for the sake of the gospel. Give us courage to build, to sacrifice, and to witness so that others may hear and believe. Help us be faithful like Paul, bold like Caleb and Joshua, and committed to making disciples with one voice. Teach us to suffer with hope, to speak of your love, and to trust that you are with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen.