

Embrace our Obstacles

November 1, 2015

David Emery, Senior Minister



Scripture

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:2-5)

¹ 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 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. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Message Takeaways

- We do not become who we are in spite of our obstacles. We become who we are because of our obstacles.
- Our biggest obstacles are not external. Our biggest obstacles are mostly internal.
- You signed up for a role in a bigger story. Grace is worth the hardship and struggle.
- Everyone has an "IT". Get creative with "IT."

Quotes from *The Last Lecture* – Randy Pausch

"Experience is what you get when you didn't get what you wanted. And experience is often the most valuable thing you have to offer."

"Complaining does not work as a strategy. We all have finite time and energy. Any time we spend whining is unlikely to

help us achieve our goals. And it won't make us happy."

"We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand. If I don't seem as depressed or morose as I should be, sorry to disappoint you."

"You don't beat the grim reaper by living longer; you beat the grim reaper by living better."

"At least I was still learning."

To watch *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch, [click here](#).

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch, ISBN-13: 978-1401323257.

Discussion Questions

1. How does viewing obstacles as opportunities change the way you deal with them?
2. What example does Jesus give us about embracing our obstacles?
3. What is your "it" with Embrace Louisville? What opportunities does "it" give you?

Call to Action

Think creatively about how you can participate in the Embrace Louisville Campaign. Make a list of 5 ideas, have family members do the same, on how to increase income or reduce expenses to give the sacrificial gift you feel led towards. Feel free to share your list at embrace@middletownchristian.org.

Prayer Guide

Visit EmbraceLouisville.org to find prayer resources for each week of the Embrace Louisville sermon series.



Group Life @ Middletown

If you are interested in taking part in a sermon-based discussion group or other small group, visit MiddletownChristian.org or contact Leah Rippetoe, lrippetoe@middletownchristian.org to learn more.

Middletown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

500 N. Watterson Trail • Louisville KY 40243
502.245.9793 • MiddletownChristian.org