

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:19-24:** 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

**HEBREWS 12:1-2:** 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.

## FOR FURTHER READING

Inalienable: How Marginalized Kingdom Voices Can Help Save the American Church (Costanzo, Yang & Soerens)

Reading the Bible Around the World: A Student's Guide to Global Hermeneutics (Roth, etc.)

Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope (Esau McCaulley)

Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible (Richards & O'Brien)

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

1. What stood out to you in this sermon and why?
2. Richard Rohr says that "Every tradition has arbitrary attachments that are not native to Christianity." Thinking back on the religious tradition of your childhood (if you had one), what "arbitrary attachments" were present, and how did you discover that they weren't native to Christianity?
3. To what extent are you seeking out diverse perspectives from within the Body of Christ? When was the last time a friend or a community helped you to detect a blind spot?
4. What does it look like to "fix our eyes on Jesus" and how might that help us to both preserve diversity and create unity?