# Pressing Toward The Goal KZ Lesson 5/16/21

# Memory Verse: Matthew 25:23 (NKJV)

**23**His lord said to him, ‘Well *done,* good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

Target Thought: We will be good and faithful servants.

Philippians 3:10-14 (NKJV)

**10**that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **11**if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

**12**Not that I have already attained,or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. **13**Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do,* forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **14**I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Have you ever run a race? (Give time for the children to respond.)We have all ran in a race whether for fun or for a competition. Our Christian life is like running a race.

In our Bible lesson today, the Apostle Paul writes a letter telling the people in the church at the town of Philippi about the joy of being a follower of Jesus. He told them that being a follower of Jesus is like running a race and winning the prize that God has for us.

We want to follow Jesus in a way that is pleasing to Him. Jesus will help us every day and

He will never leave us or forsake us. Jesus prays for us and has good plans for us.

Paul explained, "I don't mean that I am exactly what God wants me to be. I haven't reached that goal. But I continue trying to reach that goal and make it mine. That is what Jesus wants us to do. We have a long way to go, but there is one thing I do: I forget about what is past and try as hard as I can to reach the goal that God has for me." If we make a mistake along the way, we ask Jesus to forgive us and we continue to live the way He wants us to.

Do you know what the prize was that Paul was talking about? It is living a life that is well pleasing to Jesus. That is the prize that Paul was looking forward to, and it is the prize that you and I look forward to as well. When we stand before Jesus He wants to say to us “well done good and faithful servant”

Paul continued, "I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

As a follower of Jesus, you and I are running the same race that the Apostle Paul ran. When we finish the race, we will claim the same prize that Paul told the Philippians about.

Dear Father, help us to run the race and claim the prize. In the name of Jesus, we ask. Amen.

1. How do we follow Jesus?
2. What do we do if we make a mistake?
3. What do we want Jesus to say us when we stand before Him?