

“The Great Race”

by
Bill Price

What An inexperienced marathon runner receives advice from a more experienced runner on running the race set before them. He finds that the secret is running with endurance and keeping your eyes on the finish line.

Themes: Running the Race, Endurance, Finishing Well, Focus, Adult, Duet

Who Mark (the experienced runner),
Joe (the inexperienced runner)

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Mark- Plain Running Shoes, Standard Running Attire, Runner Number on his Chest.
Joe- Fancy Running Shoes, Bottle of Purple Liquid, Standard Running Attire, Runner Number on his Chest

Why Hebrews 12:1, 1 Corinthians 9:24, Acts 20:24, 2 Timothy 4:7

How Keep the dialogue moving. Be careful that Mark comes across as genuine and not condescending towards Joe.

Time Approximately 2 minutes

Joe enters and begins some half-hearted pre-race stretches. Mark enters. Both are dressed in running attire with a marathon race runner's number on their chest. Mark begins some much more purposeful stretches.

Mark: *(entering)* 'Morning!

Joe: *(dryly)* Hey...

Mark: Great day for a race, right?

Joe: Yeah. I guess....

Mark: You guess?

Joe: No. You're right. *(sarcastically)* Great day for a race!

Mark: *(noticing his reluctance)* You ready for it? A marathon race is a big deal.

Joe: Getting there...

Mark: *(looking at his running shoes)* Wow. Those are nice.

Joe: Thanks. Supposed to be the best on the market.

He looks at Mark's shoes, which are regular tennis shoes. Mark shrugs and smiles.

Mark: *(referencing Joe's shoes)* Think those will make a difference for you?

Joe: They better. They cost me plenty.

Joe takes a long swig from a container with a purple liquid in it, drains it and shudders.

Mark: And what's that stuff?

Joe: Pre-race drink. Supposed to have a bunch of minerals and electrolytes in it...or something like that. Tastes like...dirt.

Mark: I don't mean to get in your business here, but you don't seem very excited about running today.

Joe: I guess I'm not. *(pause)* The truth is, I probably shouldn't even be here.

Mark: Why do you say that?

Joe: Well, I'm not very good at running a race.

Mark: Oh come on. I'm sure you're being too hard on yourself.

Joe: No. I mean, I'm really bad at it.

Mark: Maybe you just need better training.

Joe: That's not it. I *want* to get better but I just can't seem to get it together.

Mark: Ok. What have you done to try to improve?

Joe: Well, I spent major bucks on these shoes. (*holds up his bottle*) I drink this stuff...

Mark: ...that tastes like dirt. But it takes more than that. You've got to lay aside all that extra stuff and just run the race.

Joe: But I want to run like all those runners I admire so much. They're strong and fast and the way they run looks so effortless. It's a beautiful thing to see.

Mark: Trust me. They didn't start out that way. But they stuck with it and found their race. What else?

Joe: Well, I talked to other runners and they told me that if I wanted to be a better runner, I needed to find a running mentor, someone whose running I really admired. So, I did...and I tried to run just like he did.

Mark: And what happened?

Joe: I got really tired. And sore like no other!

Mark: Ouch! But you didn't get any better?

Joe: No. And then there's that time I fell. It really hurt! But the worst part was, it was embarrassing. Everyone saw me fall. I felt like all the other runners were ashamed of me. That I had no right to call myself a runner. (*pause*) So, I'm thinking...maybe they're right.

Mark: Listen, running a race is not easy. It takes preparation, endurance, desire. You just gotta stick with it. Keep showing up – like you did today.

Joe: You seem to have it all together. I just don't feel like...I'm running like everyone expects me to run.

Mark: So are you running your race or someone else's?

Joe: Why would my race be different from anybody else's?

Mark: Look. This is no ordinary race we're running. And while there is only one path to the finish line, each of us has their own race set before them. Stop comparing yourself to other runners. Leave the past behind you. Run with endurance the race that lies before you and keep your eyes on the finish line.

Joe: I'm just not sure I can do that.

Mark: There will be times that we fall or feel like someone else is running a better race. But run your race and you'll be changed. You'll gain confidence. Establish relationships with other runners. You may even inspire others to run.

Joe: You think?

Mark: Sure. So how 'bout it? Ready to run your race?

Joe: Just one more thing. Know anyone who needs some really expensive, only slightly used running shoes?

They exit together. Lights out.

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