



## Rocky/Creed

July 21, 2024 Message Notes  
*Matthew 13:18-21, 43*

### NOTES

Life can be brutal. Hard to watch. Harder to do and endure.

Boxing is a metaphor we find true in our lives.

“I do not box as one beating the air...” 1 Corinthians 9:27

“I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave...” 1 Corinthians 9:28

“I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race.” 2 Timothy 4:7

“I’ve gone the distance. All 15 rounds in the fight of my life.”



“This is a story about faith, integrity and victory. Jesus is the inspiration for anyone to go the distance.” Sylvester Stallone

Do I have what it takes? Do I really belong here? Will where I came from keep me from getting where I'm going?

All through the movie, Rocky fights the idea that he's just a bum.

Characters in both movies are fighting issues from their past and circumstances in their present that could stifle their chances to rise in life.

These movies are not really about boxing but about human drama and the fight of our lives for validation, for acceptance as keys to life.

Each of them has reason to stop fighting. But the solution in each situation is found in going the distance.

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”  
Psalm 90:12

**If you want to go the distance...**

- Ask the deep questions
- Face the hard reality
- Find the right coach

Do you want wisdom?

“Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger.” James 1:19

**If you want to go the distance...**

- Don't stop fighting 'til the bell rings
- Commit, persevere, train to build endurance.



Where do you learn that? Your faith

### **If you want to go the distance...**

- Turn to God in a seeking faith

We don't see faith in Creed, which is sad but true to life.

We do see faith in Rocky, Rocky 2, Rocky 3 and Rocky Balboa.

“I just want to show that the heart is the last thing to age in somebody.”

Sylvester Stallone

The icon of Jesus' face above the ring at Resurrection Athletic Center is the first thing you see in Rocky.

“The character Rocky was based on the idea he was chosen to do something. That's why the first image is the picture of Christ.”

Sylvester Stallone

### **If you want to go the distance...**

- Start with Jesus Christ

In Matthew 13 Jesus tells a story about seeds (the Word of God) and soils (our lives). Some soil is receptive but others are too hard-surfaced, too rocky underneath, too choked by weeds to grow and produce – just like the characters.

### **How do you go the distance? Get your soil responsive to the seed of God's promise?**

- Ask the deep questions
- Face the hard reality
- Find the right coach
- Don't stop 'til you hear the bell
- Turn to God in a seeking faith



- Start with Jesus Christ

“I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”

John 11:25-26

- What hardness, what rocks below the surface are blocking you?
- What other interests are competing and cluttering your soil?

Invite the Holy Spirit to clear that space and make room for Jesus.

“Let us not get tired of doing what is right for after a while we shall reap a harvest of blessing, if we don’t get discouraged and if we don’t give up.”

Galatians 6:9 TLB

**All your race** is not run yet.

**All your battles** are not won yet.

**All your living** is not done yet.

Your past will not stop you.

Your circumstances will not stifle you.

“Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4 KJV

“If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:37

You are worth fighting for.

You are worth going the distance for.

God did it in Christ so you won’t throw in the towel.

Trusting Him is going to get you through.



Take up your cross and follow Him.  
Take the hits.  
Trust God and keep fighting.  
You can do it.

