

Sermon Notes

Divine Encouragement - Heb 12:5

October 12, 2025

I. Introduction

Theology is actually pretty simple. If it's good, it's God. If it's not, it's not. Pastor Lucas Miles

- a. would you say child abuse is good or not... would anyone... abuse is never acceptable... not to teach kids a lesson... not to help them grow... not to discipline them when they make mistakes...
Isa 28:21... "rise in wrath to do His work... His unexpected work... His unfamiliar task..."
Isa 54:9-10... "swore I would never again be angry with you... peace not be removed..."
Lam 3:3... "He does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone..."
Matt 7:11... "how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask..."
- b. so why do we think God uses pain, suffering, disease, sickness, death... to teach and train His kids... to help them grow and mature... to discipline them... is God guilty of child abuse...
Exo 34:6... "the Lord is gracious... slow to anger... abundant in goodness..."
Psa 27:13... "I would have lost heart... unless I believed I would see the goodness of the Lord..."
Psa 34:8... "taste and see that the Lord is good..."
Mark 10:18... "no one is good except God alone..."
- c. some popular beliefs about God are simply wrong... His blood redeems us... His word cleanses us... His will is to bless us thru Christ... His sacrifice makes us holy... suffering and pain do not...
Job 40:8... "would you put Me in the wrong and condemn Me to prove you are right..."
Eph 1:7... "in Him, we have redemption thru His blood..."
Eph 5:25-27... "Christ loved the church... gave Himself for her to make her holy... to cleanse her by the washing with water thru the Word... to present her holy and blameless..."
1Thess 5:18... "this is God's will for you... *purpose of God to bless mankind thru Christ*..."
1Cor 1:30... "Christ has become for us... our righteousness, holiness, redemption..."
1Cor 6:11... "you were cleansed, made holy, justified... in name of Jesus and by HS..."
Heb 10:10... "we have been sanctified... thru body of Jesus... once for all..."
- d. abuse never draws a victim closer to their abuser... abuse never creates love, it creates fear... abuse and fear are never from God... does God teach us... does God train us... does God discipline us... the answer is a resounding yes... question is, just exactly how does He do that... pray...
2Tim 1:7... "God has not given us a spirit of fear..."
1John 4:18... "no fear in love... perfect love drives out fear... fear involves punishment..."

II. Encouragement

- a. which word do you like best... discipline or encouragement... is there a difference...
discipline... *training expected to produce a specific behavior; punishment intended to correct...*
encouragement... *to inspire with hope, courage, confidence; give support; stimulate to action...*
Heb 12:5-7... "have you forgotten this word of encouragement, as a father to a son... do not take the Lord's discipline lightly... He disciplines those He loves... endure suffering as discipline..."
- b. most often... discipline and encouragement are two separate things to us... opposites... but are they to God... when He disciplines us... it's really divine encouragement to give us strength to go on...
Psa 119:28... "I weep with sorrow... encourage me with Your word..."
Psa 138:3... "as soon as I pray, You answer me... You encourage me with strength..."
2Tim 4:2... "preach the Word... correct, rebuke, encourage... with good teaching..."
- c. etp confuses us... truth sets us free... look at the truth of encouragement and discipline...
John 8:31-32... "continue in My word... then you will know the truth... the truth will set you free..."
Heb 12:3-13... "have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that speaks to you as a father speaks to his son... do not make light of the Lord's discipline and do not lose heart when He rebukes you... the Lord disciplines the one He loves... punishes every son He receives..."

- d. sounds really harsh... discipline, rebuke, punish, chastise, scourge... can be confusing... helps to read it in multiple translations... *seems like* God is using pain and suffering to teach us...
Heb 12:5... "have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons..."
paraklesis... *call for help; encouragement; consolation, comfort, refreshment, instruction...*
NLT... "have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as children..."
NIV... "have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as sons..."
AMP... "have you forgotten the divine word of encouragement which is addressed to sons..."
- e. God's discipline is always encouraging... rebukes are delivered with words, not in pain, sickness, and suffering... told not to make light of His discipline... don't ever want to make light of disease, tragedy, pain... but we can make light of words by ignoring, disobeying, or forgetting them...
- f. good dads train up a child, they don't beat up a child... they discipline, not abuse... good fathers teach, rebuke, correct, and train their children... and they do it with words, not violence...
Prov 22:6... "train up a child in the way he should go..."
Col 3:21... "fathers, do not exasperate your kids... or they'll become discouraged..."
2Tim 3:16... "all scripture useful... to show them the path... to show where they got off the path... to show them how to get back on the path... to show them how to stay on the path... in righteousness..."
- g. biblical discipline always takes us back to our identity in Christ... simply means to *instruct or teach*... Moses was educated or disciplined with words... not physical suffering... taught in all the wisdom that was available... probably difficult at times... used to train to his full potential... just like God to us...
Acts 7:20-22... "Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians..."
Heb 12:6-8... "the Lord disciplines those He loves... endure suffering as discipline... what children are not disciplined by their father... if you are not disciplined... you are not true sons and daughters..."
paideia... *train a child to mature and realize full potential; be instructed or taught with words...*
- h. who is Hebrews written to... author reminding them of when they rebelled against God... when they made light of His words and discipline... telling them *that didn't go well, don't do that again*... when you pay attention to God's words... they bring life, peace, health, strength, prosperity...
Psa 78... "He led His people out... He guided them... He brought them to His holy land... He gave them their inheritance... but they rebelled... they did not keep His commands..."
Prov 3:1-12... "don't forget My teaching... let your heart keep My commands... will bring you long life and peace... write them on your heart so you will find favor... they will bring health to your body and strength to your bones... do not despise the Lord's discipline or resent rebuke..."
- i. discipline requires two things in Greek... never given with force, anger, violence... must be received willingly by the one being disciplined in order to be discipline... Paul was willing... since few of us would receive pain, sickness, suffering willingly... it can't be biblical discipline... if it's not good, it's not God... uses words as His primary way of instruction... to prepare us for every good work...
1Cor 9:27... "I discipline my body and bring it under strict control..."
2Tim 3:14-17... "all scripture is useful... so you may be equipped for every good work..."
- j. biblical discipline is up to you... must be in a correct state of mind to receive it... sadly, many people don't... get offended by Word... choose etp... walk away from Jesus... become unfruitful...
Psa 119:165... "great peace have those who love Your Word... nothing shall offend them..."
Matt 15:10-20... "do You realize You offended Pharisees by what You said... ignore them..."
Mark 4:13-20... "have no root... persecuted because of word... offended... become unfruitful..."
skandalizo... *to offend; cause to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey...*
- k. sometimes have to dig a little deeper to understand the bible... should have started with this...
John 12:31-32... "now is judgment... if I am lifted up... I will draw all people to Myself..."
Heb 12:7... "endure hardship/suffering as discipline... God is dealing with you as sons..."
hypomeno paideia... *persevere, hold fast... to realize full potential of being taught with words...*
- l. why would you allow yourself to be disciplined... because of the blessings it brings... pray...
2Cor 11:3... "don't be deceived... don't let your mind be corrupted from the simplicity in Christ..."
Heb 12:11... "no discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful... later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it..."
dikaioyne... *condition acceptable to God; integrity, virtue, purity; correct thinking, feeling, acting...*