

May 07, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God's hand of discipline is a hand of love

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Thank You, Lord, for showing me my hidden faults, for You treat me as Your dear child. Help me surrender to Your cleansing work till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten
(Heb 12:7 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", June 8, 2014)

Series: The Love of God
UNIT: The Extent of God's Love

NEXT WEEK
God's Protective Love
(Jonah 2:1-10)

God's Disciplinary Love Jonah 1:7-17

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson helps us understand that our sinfulness and disobedience will lead to **God's Disciplinary Love**. The study's aim is to realize that God disciplines us because He loves us as His children. The study's application is to accept any discipline from the Lord as an evidence of His love for us.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

"You do not want to do that," I warned my niece. She looked up, trying to wriggle out of my grasp. A few seconds later, she jerked her arm, freeing herself. She got two steps off the sidewalk before I grabbed her, just as a car passed directly in front of her. That scared her, but it was not her only shock. She was surprised when I told her that she would be punished. Her eyes filled with tears as I explained the reason she was being punished. Taylor's attitude was much like Jonah's. God gave Jonah a clear mission— Go and preach to Nineveh. Jonah, however, had other ideas. Instead of embarking for Assyria, he went to Tarshish. At that time, Tarshish was considered to be the farthest end of the world. Jonah was not just trying to get away. He no doubt thought that if he could go far enough, he might not have to obey God's command. He was attempting to outrun God and to avoid preaching to a people he despised. God, however, had other plans. Jonah failed to realize that it is impossible to run away from the Lord. There is no place on earth that He is not present (Ps. 139:7-10). There is nothing that is hidden from Him. So when the storm came, Jonah knew that he had run straight into God's displeasure. What was happening? This was God's way of chastening Jonah. Like my niece, Jonah knew what he had done (Jonah 1:12). He apparently thought that he could get away with it. When God sent a storm and a fish, Jonah learned how wrong he was! There are those who take a fear filled view of God. They prefer to view Him as being so stern that He is almost sadistic. This is not the case. God's actions are not arbitrary or based on some twisted whim. God is doing what every good parent does; He is teaching His child what is right. Any parent will tell you that as part of instilling right and wrong, there are times when a child must be disciplined. When it is administered correctly, it becomes an opportunity to learn. Because He is the perfect Heavenly Father, God chooses to discipline us at times. As His children, we are admonished not to despise the Lord's chastening when it comes. We are reminded, "For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth" (Prov. 3:12). We know that God is just (cf. Isa. 45:21), so we trust that His discipline will be the right thing. It is when we experience no discipline that we need to be most worried. Hebrews tells us, "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons" (12:8). No truly loving parent would allow his or her child to continue in sinful behavior, knowing how destructive it will be for the child. It is useful to note that not every hardship is a form of God's discipline. Remember the example of Job. However, we must equally recall that we will face His chastening from time to time. It can be very uncomfortable for us when we are facing it. We can take heart, though, knowing that our Heavenly Father does this out of love.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Discipline's Cause (Jonah 1:7-9)

Jonah's conviction (7)

- Conviction that cuts to the heart (Acts 2:37)
- Conviction because of secrets of the heart (1 Cor 14:24-25)
- Conviction when the Holy Spirit convinces us of our sin (John 16:6-8)
- Conviction that should not be ignored (Heb 2:2-4)
- Conviction that brings us to our knees (Acts 16:29-30)
- Conviction through God's kindness (Romans 2:4)

Jonah's disobedience to God (8-9)

- Disobedience that comes from the influence of Satan (Eph 2:1-3)
- Disobedience of being deceptive (Eph 5:6)
- Disobedience through actions that display the denial of God (Titus 1:15-16)
- Disobedience that will receive just punishment (Heb 2:2)
- Disobedience that keeps one from entering God's rest (Heb 4:6)

Discipline's Concern (Jonah 1:10-11)

Fear and Guilt (10)

- Guilt because evil causes war in our minds (Rom 7:23-25)
- Guilt because it brings remorse at the knowledge of my weakness (Matt 26:75)
- Guilt because it leaves us unworthy and seeking mercy from God (Luke 18:13)
- Guilt because of the accountability and responsibility (Matt 27:3-5)

Seeking answers to indecision (11)

- The Holy Spirit can teach us what to say (Luke 12:12)
- The Holy Spirit can teach and remind us of all things (John 14:26)
- The Holy Spirit is with us to warn us (Acts 20:22-23)
- The Holy Spirit can help us understand (1 Cor 2:12-14)
- The Holy Spirit can lead us into the truth (John 16:13-15)

Discipline's Consequences (Jonah 1:12-17)

Human solutions (12-13)

- Human solutions that rely on man's wisdom and knowledge (Jer 9:23-24)
- Human solutions that don't practice God's Words (Matt 7:24-27)
- Human solutions that rely on human will power (Matt 26:33-34)
- Human solutions that don't obey God exactly (1 Sam 15:12-15)
- Human solutions that is caused by pride (Job 23:1-5)

Prayer for solution (14)

- Prayer that results in the power of God being invoked (Acts 4:23-31)
- Prayer that is in unity (Matt 18:19)
- Prayer that is effective and fervent (James 5:16)
- Prayer that acknowledges that the competence comes from God (2 Cor 3:5)
- Prayer that acknowledges that it is God who does the work (1 Cor 3:7)

Following God's guidance (15-16)

- Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)
- Guidance by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:18)
- Guidance into insight (Ps 119:99-100)
- Guidance as a light for our path (Ps 119:105)
- Guidance into wisdom (Prov 2:6)

God's discipline (17)

- Discipline is the solution because it shows that God loves us (Heb 12:4-7)
- Discipline is the solution because it produces a harvest of righteousness (Heb 12:11)
- Discipline is the solution because it brings us into the light of God's righteousness (Mic 7:9)
- Discipline is the solution because it strengthens our faith in God (1 Peter 1:6-7)