

Hebrews 12:5-13 Divine Training

Billy Bob was on his way to school one morning when he saw an outhouse perched on edge of Bayou

A) Feeling that mischievous streak welling up inside of him that little boys often feel – **he gave it a hard shove**

B) He watched outhouse tumble into the Bayou below / no big deal until he got home!

1) **He was met by His father**

*“Billy Bob tell truth – did you push outhouse into the Bayou?” Well daddy - studied about George Washington in school today - and like George - can't tell a lie - **yes I did!***

Billy Bob - bend over, I'm going to whup you son

But Daddy I told the truth - George Washington's daddy didn't whup him when he admitted to chopping down cherry tree

That may be true son - but George Washington's daddy wasn't in that cherry tree!

In our text today we see that the writer changes his analogy from Runners in a Race – to Fathers and Children!

Declares – “Whom the Lord loves, He Chastens.”

In v.5 We are exhorted v5 not to DESPISE the Chastening of the Lord

Don't Despise when you get spanked

A) But the fact of the matter is No one enjoys getting a spanking - **NO ONE EVER ASKS FOR IT!**

B) **Although I did Hear the story of one boy who was about 7yrs old - in bed - mom & Dad in Bed**

1) Called - Dad - *I'm thirsty can you bring me a glass of water* - dad responded - **No son - had enough water- go to sleep -**

C) 5 Minutes later - boy was heard again. - Dad I can't sleep - can I please have a glass of water – NO!!!!

D) *Ask again I am going to come in there &.....Dad when you come in here to spank me can you bring me a glass of water!*

Kids typically don't ask for Spankings and they don't enjoy Discipline

A) A kid's view it is always a negative thing: *If I do that I will get a spanking / I got Busted / I'm TOAST / in trouble*

B) **Parents' perspective is entirely different** – We view it as Child rearing – necessary for training.

My Dad – *Doing this because I love you* – Yea right

1) *Hurts me more than it hurts You -*

C) You really don't understand that until you are a Parent & you have to discipline your own kids – **Not an enjoyable experience**

D) The Lord feels the same way: He Doesn't enjoy Disciplining us

Lamentations 3:31-33 **The Lord will not reject his people forever.³² Although he brings sorrow, he also has mercy and great love.³³ He does not like to punish people or make them sad.**

Sometimes People can have this picture of God – Angry Oger / big stick looking for someone to mess up – So He can Wack them

A)Not the case at all– He doesn't enjoy it or take pleasure in it but He does it because He knows it is necessary

B) Now it is important that we have a clear understanding of the word Chasten -

1) The word actually means *Child training* / speaks of a method used in helping us *mature, grow & develop* as His children.

C)In fact the writer of Hebrews tells us in v.6 that Chastening is really a sign of God's love for you / *Whom He loves He Chastens -*

1) And it IDENTIFIES YOU as His Child

C) See, God is the Perfect Father who is committed to His Children .

1) He loves them so much & will do what is necessary to see them *grow properly* /

C)Your Heavenly father loves you enough to do what is Necessary in your Life to Train you

D) Now Chastening or training will come in **various forms & for different reasons** : Consider 4

Sometimes the Chastening is Correctional – JONAH

A)V.6 Scourges (*mastigoō*) refers to flogging with a whip, and was a common Jewish practice

B) It was a severe and extremely painful beating.

C)The point of Hebrews 12:6b, and of Proverbs 3:12 (from which it is quoted), is that God's discipline can sometimes **be severe**.

D) “When our disobedience is great or our apathy is great, His punishment will be great.”

1)No one exemplifies that better than Jonah

Jonah / called by God to preach to Ninev. But Jonah refused . *You are a Good God ...repent, you forgive*

A)How like Pastor like Jonah?) wanted them in Hell

Bb)So Jonah Rebelled & fled; Catches a boat to Tarshish- **opposite direction** (**I love this**)

1)God doesn't give up on Jonah / **OTHER** Prophets

C)But Seeking to correct & to train his wayward prophet, God sends a storm .

1)Now Had Jonah repented / I believe storm stopped!

Jonah was one Stubborn Dude! "Throw me over board!" Rather die than obey God

A)But The Lord doesn't give up(**I would have**) / God sends a BIG FISH - Finally after 3 days Jonah repents

B)Sending a Big Fish to swallow Jonah was severe – but it did the trick!

C)Jonah got with the program – God used Him greatly!

So the Chastening that we go thru is a sign of His love – He didn't give up on Jonah & He will not give up on You or Me

A)He doesn't just let us go – doesn't leave us heading down the wrong path

B)He loves us enough to correct us & to train us so that we don't get hurt or miss out on His blessing our lives.

1) Jesus has the best in store for us and He wants the best out of us!

C)Interesting The Writer points out here v.8 – if you are in sin & you are not being disciplined – Shows that you are not a Son – Illegitimate

1) Might call yourself a Christian – But mistaken / Because God loves His kids enough to discipline them when they are in Sin / Rebellion

C) When in Rebellion He isn't going to let you alone for very long – until you face the consequences of your sin – Prodigal in Pig Pen

1)God will allow you to get there – In hopes that it Brings you to your senses

Now pause & note We must realize that there is a great difference between God's CORRECTION & His judgmental punishment.

A)As Christians our Punishment for sin was paid in full by JESUS at Calvary!

Aa)God does not exact double payment for any sin!

B) Though we deserve God's wrathful Judgmental punishment because of our sin, we will never have to face it, because Jesus **FACED** it for us.

C)God's love and His justice would allow Him to require payment for what His Son has already paid in full.

D) So In discipline, God is not acting as a judge, but a Father{ Analogy being used here. Dad

E) But God will allow us to experience the painful consequences of our rebellion & sin

1) Sometimes He will even orchestrate those events like in the case of Jonah because He loves us enough to Correct us

So sometimes God's Chastening is for the purpose of Correction like in the case of Jonah

A) Other times it is #2 **INSTRUCTIONAL** like in the case of Job

B) Job wasn't in rebellion /or sin / He was a righteous man!

1) yet God allowed Him to go through some heavy training – Hand of Satan

2) Job lost everything / health/ family/ friends

C) **But listen to what he said at the end of it all!**

Job 5:17-18 (NIV) "Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal."

Job 42:3,5

'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You.

C) Job is saying/ I **heard** about you I **knew** about you but **Now I Know you-** /

1) Through his suffering Job was given a magnificent view of God!

D) He learned of God's holy majesty, His deliverance, Care, Power, Counsel, & His defense .

Discipline can also teach sympathy for others. Again Job's experience is a perfect illustration. (Job 42:10).

"And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends"

A) Through his troubles, Job saw **God more clearly, himself more clearly, and others more clearly.**

1) He became more sensitive & understanding

B) So in Job's example we understand that Chastening may not come because we are doing poorly but **because we are doing well.**

*"Job was like a spiritual athlete, and because of his excellence, God was like a wise coach who brought greater stress & challenge to Job so that Job might **ASCEND TO UNDREAMED** LEVELS OF SPIRITUALITY"*

R. Kent Hughes

So sometimes Chastening is Correctional / other times Instructional / And sometimes it is #3 Preventional – The case of Paul 2 Cor.12

A) Paul was taken into heaven – saw what no man has ever seen / so grand, Paul said – **Human words cannot express**

B) Paul also shared there that because of His Revelation – He was inflicted w/ **a THORN IN THE FLESH** –

1) Messenger of Satan - **The purpose of Paul's thorn in the flesh was to PREVENT Paul from becoming Proudful.**

C) That thorn in the Flesh was a Constant reminder to Paul that he was just a man / reminder of his WEAKNESS

1) That he was a man that needed to be dependant upon the Grace of God

I am what I am by the Grace of God !!!!!

D)I believe that any time that Paul began to think otherwise that thorn would Prick him – **Reminder not to become prideful**

1) **Constant reminder of the Sufficiency** of God's grace – In his weakness God would be Strong

E) So sometimes the Chastening or training can be Preventional

#4 Motivational - Early Church in Jerusalem- Redirect them.

A)God said send HS – witness Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost parts.

B)But after 3 years – Just Jerusalem

C)So Persecution was sent to get them going in the direction the Lord wanted them.

1)Jerusalem / Judea / Samaria / Utter most parts -

D)God allowed persecution to get them out of their Comfort Zones

He does the same to us sends an instrument of discipline/training to get us out of our Comfort zones / move us out / spread us out!

A)Job transfer / new neighborhood / new church/ energy.

B)He is doing a work

1) God's desire to train you & move you out

Wilson Johnson, the founder of Holiday Inn motels, once said, "When I was forty years old I worked in a sawmill. One morning the boss told me I was fired. Depressed and discouraged, I felt like the world had caved in.

When I told my wife what had happened, she asked me what I was going to do. I replied, "I'm going to mortgage our little home and go into the building business.' My first venture was the construction of two small buildings. **Within five years I was a multimillionaire!** *At the time it happened, I didn't understand why I was fired. Later, I saw that it was all a part of God's wondrous plan to get me moving into the way of His choosing."*

D)Sometimes our life is so comfortable – we don't pray about certain things. Our Job – or Business

1)Is God seeking to Move you? – Motivate you – Ministry or something.

E)He will allow a brook to dry up – send you to river

So out His love for us the Lord will allow us to go through Training to work in us One or all these reasons!

A) To correct- sin / instruct / prevent/ to motivate!

A man who was asked why he was looking over a wall replied, *“Because I can’t see through it.”*

James Moffatt said, “To endure rightly, one must endure intelligently.”

B) When Christians cannot see through the wall of pain, confusion, hardship, or despair,

1) they need only look over the wall into the face of their loving heavenly Father. –

C) Understand His Divine Purpose for what going thru

C) What has been your outlook concerning the Chastening Hand of Your heavenly Father ?

Notice what happens when you respond to discipline rightly! V.10-11

V. 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, **that we may be partakers of His holiness.**

God is doing a work in us to make us like Himself / Holy/

A) The Discipline & trials are part of that training process!

B) **Imagine going out & mining for Gold! Find a Huge Nugget**

1) The true & deepest value of that gold will not be brought until the gold is refined by fire!

C) **So take the gold & throw it into the crucible / fire / intensely heated .**

1) As the gold sits in that environment / all the impurities /worthless particles, the dross rises & burns

D) **All that devalues the gold is removed / the gold comes out of the fire more valuable than when it went in!**

1) Knows it is Right – Sees His face in the Reflection

E) God Knows we are right when – we start to reflect Jesus

2nd result V11 Yields peaceable fruit of righteousness

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

THERE IS AN INCREASE OF FRUIT!

A) Ever had a grape vine? After the grape season – prune that thing. –

B) Don't have a green thumb – but Denise is pretty good – Oregon – grape vine – I am going to prune
1) what did you do! Killed it!

C) But the next yr. it was even more Fruitful

D) **That is what the Lord does in our lives!**

John 15:1,2

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener.
2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, **and he prunes** the branches that do bear fruit so **they will produce even more fruit.**"

E) God wants us to bear fruit so He will Prune us He will cut back the foliage in our lives every thing that doesn't belong!

1) He will go to great lengths to make us fruitful /

Don't despise the chastening – Purity / Fruitfulness

Now let me draw your attention again to v.12-13 – We will close with this.

12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Question: is this to be taken personally – or corporately? Written to individual or the body?

A) Strengthen your own hands or the hands of each other.

B) I don't think it is either or – but I think it is both!

C) See there are times when you have been disciplined or stretched by the Lord.

1) We throw a pity party – We just want to quit

D) Or **we ask questions like** – why is this happening to me. Not fair – I don't deserve this.

1) Absolutely right – We **DESERVE WORSE – HELL**

So to those who like to wallow in self pity - in those times a loving heavenly Father would say to us – strengthen those hands hang down ...knees

A) Remember I have a plan in all of this – for your good – purification – help you bear fruit

B) You need to get up – and start running again.

1) The race is not over – you are not done. – More I have in store for you.

C) **A DIVINE WORD FOR SOME OF YOU**

But the Bible also teaches that we are to strengthen and encourage each other in the Lord.

A)Remind each other of the big picture – or at least just pray for each other.

B)Don't judge – this must be happening because...

C)DON'T GO THERE – Job's counselors – spoke truth – but lacked discernment –

1)Made matters worse – didn't strengthen their friend at all – neither did his wife. Curse God ...

D)Don't make that mistake – Seek to strengthen encourage.

1)A refreshing word – like a bottle of Power aid

E)You do that to others – when you are going through, there will be those to do that for you.

Listen a loving heavenly Father says to His Kids – Because I love you I am going to seek to Protect you Instruct you / when Nec. Correct you

A)If you are saved today you have a loving heavenly Father who loves you and wants the best for you so

B) And because He loves you & wants the best for you – He will discipline you in order to [get the best out of you](#)

C) If you are not a Christian today – God is not your father – remain in your sin / He will be your judge

D)But He sent Jesus to take your Punishment

1)Embrace it – come into the Family of God today

E)Loving heavenly Father