Sermon Notes

Hebrews 12:4-13

Written by Rev. Guillermo Yela



As Christians, our foundation of faith is based on the revelation of God, which is manifested in the testimony and history of the Hebrew people, in Jewish religiosity, and later in the movement of the promised Messiah, who inaugurated a new covenant founded on love and grace. This story, which spans more than 4,000 years, has been compiled in the Bible, both in the Hebrew Scriptures and in the New Testament.

Personally, I believe that to truly understand the Scriptures and their message, we must move between the historical and cultural context in which they were written and our own contemporary reality.

1. Have you ever found it difficult to understand certain biblical texts because they were written in a context very different from ours? Have you ever visited another country and seen customs or practices that seemed strange or surprising because they don't exist in your own culture?

In Old Testament times, it was commonly interpreted that a person born with a disability—such as blindness, lameness, or other limitations—was being punished by God, either for their own sin or the sins of their parents. However, Jesus offers a new perspective: in cases like the man born blind (John 9), He teaches that it is not a matter of punishment, but rather an opportunity for the glory of God to be revealed.

- 2. Do you believe that God punishes? How do you interpret the discipline God gives to His children?
- 3. Have you ever experienced situations that you interpreted as God's discipline? How did you live through them?

Proverbs 23:13-14 says: "Do not withhold discipline from your children; if you beat them with a rod, they will not die. If you beat them with the rod, you will save their lives from Sheol."

4. Given the changes in our understanding of child development and human rights, do you think this type of advice should be applied literally today, or should it be interpreted in light of current context and culture?

Hebrews 12:6, according to the NRSVue version, says: "For the Lord disciplines those whom He loves and chastises every child whom He accepts." And the King James Version says: "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth."

- 5. Since language and ideas about discipline have changed over time, do you think it is appropriate to interpret these texts with consideration of the cultural and historical context in which they were written?
- When we go through times of suffering—such as illness, unemployment, broken relationships, or financial struggles, how should we interpret them? Are they punishments from God, natural consequences of our actions, tests of faith, or times meant to grow in dependence and trust in Him?

Financial Update as of Aug 3, 2025

Needed to Meet 2025 Budget

2025 Annual Budget \$ 14,203,292 Actual Income to Date 6,975,894 7,227,398

Births and Deaths

George Wilson passed away July 30. Doris Sheils passed away August 1. More information at memorials.mdpc.org. MEMORIAL DRIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH







Next Sunday, we're launching dynamic new studies, including deep dives into John and Genesis, plus The Big Story series: The Bible's Big Story, Theology's Big Story, and the new Christianity's Big Story. These indepth studies, led by Clay Brown, Laurien Hook, and Leigh McLeroy, explore key themes and narratives that shape the Christian faith.

Sundays, 9:45 & 11:15am life.mdpc.org



BEGINS SEP 4

Word and Worship is diving into the Gospel of Matthew—a story full of hope, challenge, and truth. Join a small group or follow along on your own, and be part of a study that'll deepen your understanding of Jesus.

wordandworship.mdpc.org

MINISTRYHIGHLIGHTS

Prayer for Schools Mon, Aug 18 | 9:30-10am | Chapel

Let's bless this school year together! Pastors and staff will lead us in a brief gathering of prayer for students, teachers, and schools of all kinds. Come be part of this meaningful time.

Young Adult Backyard Bash Sat, Aug 23 | 6-8:30pm | MDPC

Hey young adults! Whether you're single, dating, or married, new in town or just looking to meet some new people, you're invited! Good food, great vibes, and new connections - it's the perfect way to wrap up summer. RSVP: yaevents.mdpc.org



To view all events, visit events, mdpc.org.

Officer Nominations Close Aug 25

Know someone with a heart for Jesus and a love for this church? Nominate them to serve as an elder or deacon. Just fill out the brief form at nominate.mdpc.org. It's simple, and it matters!

Dads Pickleball Social Sat, Aug 23 | 8:30am-12pm

Dads-whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to the game, join us for this laid-back morning to meet other dads. Register: dads.mdpc.org

MomCo Every 2nd Thu starting Sep 4

Moms, listen up - MomCo is a gathering for women in every stage of motherhood. It's a place to be encouraged, equipped, and surrounded by moms who get it! More info at momco.mdpc.org.



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship Clay Brown

*Worship Songs Rejoice / How Great Thou Art

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Clay Brown

Worship Songs Abide / Lord, I Need You

HEARING THE WORD

Sermon The Hall of Fame | Hebrews 12:4-13 (NRSVUE) Guillermo Yela

RESPONDING -

Song of Response Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

SENDING

*Doxology Old 100th

*Charge & Benediction Guillermo Yela

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING -

Call to Worship Dan Aikins

*Worship Songs Rejoice / How Great Thou Art

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Rachel Poysky

*Worship Songs Abide / Lord, I Need You

HEARING THE WORD -

Sermon The Hall of Fame | Hebrews 12:4-13 (NRSVUE) Guillermo Yela

RESPONDING

Song of Response Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Baptisms & Reaffirmation of Faith

Alf Halvorson

Frankie Lynn Saha, daughter of Tanner Bailey Saha Isabelle Louise Dobbins, daughter of James and Christine Dobbins Dylan Benson Beasley, daughter of Ben and Jennifer Beasley Andy Walsh

Congregational Response

SENDING -

*Doxology Old 100th

*Charge & Benediction Guillermo Yela

Musicians: Kevin Ajanel, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; JJ Blanco, keys; Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude Andante Moderato Frank Bridge (1879-1941)
Call to Worship Dan Aikins

Choral Introit Awake My Heart Jane Marshall (1924-2019)

*Hymn of Praise When Morning Gilds the Skies Vs. 1, 3, 4 #487 | Laudes Domini

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon Rachel Poysky

*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed

*Congregational Response Glory Be to the Father #592 | GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD -

Anthem of Preparation Order My Steps Glenn Burleigh (1949-2007)
Sermon The Hall of Fame | Hebrews 12:4-13 (NRSVUE) Guillermo Yela

RESPONDING -

Anthem Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus arr. Bryan Sharpe (b. 1990)

Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer Rachel Poysky

*Hymn of Response What a Friend We Have in Jesus Vs. 1 & 3 #403 | Converse

SENDING -

*Charge & Benediction Guillermo Yela

Postlude The Pilgrims' Chorus Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

Music: Priscilla Salisbury, Kelli Estes, Su-Jin Cho, Riley Vagis, Christine Oakes, Jason Amos, Chris Childress, Antoine Griggs, Esteban Cordero, John Bond, Christopher Love, MDPC Summer Choir | Cassandra Black, Soloist Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, Organist/Pianist

*Please stand, if comfortable.

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



Like to get in touch with one of our Pastors?

Feel free to reach out! Visit **staff.mdpc.org** for contact information and ministry areas.