

Do What's Right (Part 2) – 2 Kings 18:9-12

2 Kings 18; But before we get there, I want to share some more **Cause For Delight** like I did last week; Especially w/ our ministry year theme of Delight Yourself In The Lord And this weekend, it's notes from SP's in our Fellowship

A couple of months ago, some of you wrote and sent notes of encouragement to some of the pastors in our Fellowship, as part of our Outreach Conference
And over the past month or so, I've received notes from them that I not only found super encouraging, but made me very proud of you; And I want to read some of them

Norm Millar (London, Ontario)

Hey brother,
Just got a number of cards from some of your people saying they were praying for me and sent a note to encourage me. What a blessing!
I was speaking at a conference center last week and at Harvest Barrie on the weekend so just got into the office this morning, and there they were. Oxygen to the soul of a tired pastor trying to gear up for kick off Sunday!
So appreciate this gesture of love and care from my extended family.
After reading these I stopped to thank God for you and your church and to pray for you as well as this fall season begins. Prayed for His sustaining power and for much fruit for His glory.
Love you Rob! Norm

Todd Dugard (Barrie, Ontario)

Received a fistful of net cards from folks at Harvest Davenport. So encouraging. Thanks for leading your church so well. God is using you in ways you don't realize.
Eager to see you again at Harvest University. Grateful for you and your team.
Todd

Jared Cox (Managua, Nicaragua)

Dear Laura,
I do not know who to thank at Harvest Davenport but I received a package in the mail directly delivered to my house with five "thank you" cards in it from members of the church, thanking me for church planting in Nicaragua.
I was greatly encouraged they would think to do this, take the time to do this, and spend the money to send it directly to my house; because I know it was not cheap.
Please send my "thank you" and heartfelt appreciation to those responsible for this gesture.
I am thankful for the Fellowship.
In Him, Jared

Marius Mezin (Harvest Metanoia; Braila, Romania)

Dear Rob,
I just want to [encourage] you with this message of gratitude for all the encouragement I have received from a few brothers and sisters at Harvest Davenport.
Please tell all of them that I am so grateful for their messages and for all the prayers they are lifting up to the Lord for me, for my family, and for the work God is doing through us here in Romania.
Thank you, brother, for this initiative! It is just another reason we are so blessed to be a part of the Harvest family.

I will continue to pray for you and for what the Lord is doing through you in so many lives. Give my love to your family and to the church!
In Christ, Marius Mezin

And then last, was a hand-written note from . . .

Hayden Norris (Gainesville, FL)

Dear Rob

I just wanted to write you a quick note to thank you for mobilizing HBC Davenport to write encouragement cards to me and many of our brothers pastoring HBC's. Your notes came to me at a needed time of encouragement. We were just finishing up a long summer season in which we saw decreased attendance due to vacations and students being away. It was a great reminder to me that we are "all in this together." Thank you for your leadership not only in Davenport, but in our Fellowship.
This summer as I went to church to preach (sometimes to less than 50 people), I prayed these things: (1) Increase my passion for Jesus (2) Increase my passion for the lost (3) Increase my passion for our people (and not worry so much about who isn't there). I wrote these things down based on some things you taught us in Naperville last April.
Keep praying for us in Gainesville. God is at work and I am reminded daily that He will build His church here. Pray for increased attendance, finances, and most importantly spiritual growth.
Alive to God, Hayden Norris

I'm so thankful for Doug Rowland, our Pastor of Outreach Ministries, and his leadership in this; And I'm so thankful for you, and your desire and diligence to do it
What a blessing; And what a cause for great delight (**Summary**)
And one that's obviously resulted in *many thanksgivings to God* as Paul says (2 Cor 9)
And I'd like to do the same, and pray for them

Pray – God, would you remind each of these pastors and their wives of your goodness and greatness? (**Title Slide**) Would you bless them for their perseverance? Would you keep them from the evil one, and protect them from difficulty? And would you encourage them with the fruit of changed lives? Bless them and keep them, I pray

➤ That brings us to our study of Isaiah, and part 2 of the account of Hezekiah in chapters 36-37, that we began to unpack last *weekend*
And found that it's one of the significant dates and *events* in the history of God's people – the 701BC failed attack by Assyria
Significant not only b/c of what happened, but b/c it's recorded in 3 places – Is 36, 2 Chron 32, and right here in 2 Kings 18

We also saw that it took place in Judah (**Map – ESV Study p.676**) – the southern part of what used to be a united Israel
And the king or leader during this time, was Hezekiah – a man who did what was right, and was blessed by God for it
The very thing we should do, b/c it was written for our example

IOW do what's right . . .

Because obedience brings blessing (2 Kings 18:1-8)

That was last week; Where we found, based on Hezekiah's experience in the years leading up to the attack . . .

That obedience brings the blessings of God's help, success, strength, and victory
Not that you'll always *know* that God's blessing you; And not that you'll win a
popularity contest for doing what's right; But blessing nonetheless
In God's way, and God's time
The key to it all, being v3 – *He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD (Summary)*
That was last week, from v1-8

- This week, it's v9-12; Still talking about the time leading up to the attack on Jerusalem
In the fourth year of King Hezekiah [right around 710BC], *which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel* [the northern tribes], *Shalmaneser king of Assyria* [he's the predecessor of Sennacherib, the Assyrian king who a few years later attacks Jerusalem] *came up against Samaria and besieged it, [10] and at the end of three years he took it.*

Now, Samaria was a city at that time, in northern Israel (**Map – ESV Study p.676**)
And though the area in general was attacked and conquered back in 722BC, there seems
to have been pockets of resistance that remained, or flared up
In which case, Shalmaneser felt it necessary to attack; And did; Besieging it for 3
years, until he brought it too, under Assyrian rule; Which v10 reiterates

In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. [And look at what he did] [11] The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria and put them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes [the Persians; all to the Northeast of Palestine], [12] because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God but transgressed his covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded [referring to the Law]. They neither listened nor obeyed.

Here's the point – Always do what's right . . .

Because disobedience brings discipline (2 Kings 18:9-12)

Obedience brings blessing, and disobedience brings discipline

In their case, it was being physically carried off to another land, and giving up their
homes and property to people who were transplanted in
Not good; And not pleasant; Can you imagine giving up *your* home to complete
strangers; Never to return? Pretty harsh

But it gives us insight into the heart of God and the lengths to which he will go to carry
out justice; To change our hearts; To discipline his people
All b/c: (A) *They did not obey the voice of the Lord their God* – v12; (B) *They transgressed his covenant*; and (C) *They didn't listen to God*
I'd say that pretty much covers it all in terms of disobedience

- They didn't do what God *told* them to – like worshipping his way and living his way
(B) They often did what he *didn't* want them to – like transgressing his covenant, his
promise to be their God in return for their obedience and allegiance . . .
They often ignored that covenant by adopting the pagan ways of surrounding nations,
and failing to set themselves apart as a people for his own possession . . .
(C) They didn't *listen* to God when he spoke to them; Like through his prophets, and
priests, and teachers; People who *applied* the Law to their lives

Or *led* them in the way of righteousness; Or *warned* them about their sin

They didn't listen, they didn't obey, and they didn't remain true – true to God and the
covenant he made with them
So God brought discipline

And here's the thing – he'll do the same with us if we disobey; You can . . .

- **Expect it**

You can expect that disobedience will result in discipline; Not only b/c of the example of
Israel here in 2 Kings, but b/c of what it says explicitly in **Heb 12:6**
The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.
Disciplines, as in brings about *instructive* punishment (Greek “paideuo”)
And *chastises*, as in *corrective* punishment; Literally scourge – severely whip
Not that chastise here means we will be scourged, but that our discipline may be
physical, and may be significant; Just like it was for the Israelites

If you're a follower of Jesus Christ, if you're one of God's children through faith and
repentance, faith in who Jesus is and what he's done on your behalf . . .
And repentance of your sins and sinfulness – you can expect discipline if you disobey
You can expect chastisement in whatever form, if you do something you shouldn't, or
don't do something you should*****

You can expect it, b/c he *loves* you; Just like a good parent loves their kids; And
disciplines *them*; And chastises *them*

In fact, **v8** says – *If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated* [all
true sons], *then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Heb 12:8*

God's discipline is a part of being one of his children

- **No discipline, no salvation**

If there's no discipline in your life, you're not a child of God; You're not a son or
daughter of the king; Which is yet another assurance of our salvation . . .
And one more reason to thank him for all things, in all circumstances

Does that mean he's up there just waiting to crack the whip? Or that he gives you
every punishment you deserve? No
He's also merciful and often *withholds* punishment
But not all the time; Sometimes God disciplines us

And when he does . . .

- **It's for your own good**

That's the next part of this; Discipline for disobedience is for your own good
That's v10 – *God disciplines us for our good*

Which sounds a lot like my mom when I was growing up, just before the Hot Wheel track
was about to land on my backside
“I'm doing this for your own good” she would say; “And you're going to thank me for
it someday”; Whack!
Great, Mom; I guess I'll have to take your word for it; Not

But I'm thankful now; B/c she and Dad were instruments of God's discipline in my life
when I was disobedient; And it really was for my own good . . .

B/c it enabled me to share in God's holiness – to live like him

The very thing that v10 goes on to say – *God disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness*

That our thoughts, attitudes, and actions would conform more and more to *his*

➤ Unfortunately, it's not very pleasant, is it? That's **v11**

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Notice how this ties peace in with discipline and training; It's so simple and so profound, and yet so lost on us

So many people want peace in their life, but fail to get it b/c they fail to accept and respond to the training of God's discipline

Discipline *yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it*

Those who embrace it; Those who endure it; Those who accept it

And therein lies the key

• **You have to accept it**

You have to yield yourself to the training of discipline, otherwise its intended effect will be lost on you

The epitome of which would be the high recidivism rate among those who get out of prison, only to return within 3 years

Why do they do that? B/c they didn't yield themselves to the training of discipline

Just like we don't; Like when someone addresses an issue they perceive in us, and we refuse to listen; We refuse to accept it

We refuse to consider it; Instead, going to great lengths to justify ourselves

The essence of Heb 12:11 is that discipline yields righteousness, and righteousness yields peace – *if*, you submit to the *training*

If, you yield to God's correction; If, you listen to his instruction – the application of which often comes from those around you; Just like it came from my parents

➤ That said, it's also important to understand, that just b/c you're going through hardship, doesn't mean you're being disciplined

Expect and accept discipline, yes . . .

• **But not all hardship is discipline**

It's not; It *could* be that you're simply having to deal with one of the many ill-effects of living in a fallen world

Or that God is testing your *faith*, strengthening it – like clay is strengthened by heat . . .

In order to produce steadfastness and maturity (James 1:3-4)

Just b/c you're going through a hard time, doesn't mean you have some huge lesson to learn; I think we agonize and beat ourselves up far too much in that respect

Just b/c you're experiencing hardship in your life, doesn't mean God is trying to teach you something

➤ But coming full circle, it could (**Summary**)

If you're going through a difficult time, if people are saying hard things to you, if you're experiencing ill-health, or loss of favor . . .

It *could* be that he's disciplining you for disobedience

And if he is, accept it – for your good and his glory

Accept it, from your heavenly Father who loves you immensely

Accept it, so that you'll do what's right, and enjoy his blessing

Prayer – Lord, you well know that this is hard; It's hard to endure discipline, and learn from it; But we're thankful you don't leave us to our own devices; We're thankful that you love us so much you want us to be like Jesus; So help us I pray; I know you do And receive our *tithes and offerings* as an expression of our delight – our delight in you