



## **Title: God's Discipline & Fatherly Love**

### **Hebrews 12:5-29**

#### Introduction

*We must all suffer one of two things: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret or disappointment. (Jim Rohn)*

*It's easy to have faith in yourself and have discipline when you're a winner, when you're number one.*

*What you got to have is faith and discipline when you're not a winner. (Vince Lombardi)*

*Because of their size, parents may be difficult to discipline properly. (P. J. O'Rourke)*

Describe your earthly father in one word.

- Why did you choose that word?

What do you think of when you hear the word "discipline"?

- Is it a positive or negative connotation? Why is that?

#### Parent and Child

Read Heb 12:5-11

- Why does God discipline us? (vs 10)
- What is the desired result of Godly discipline? (vs 11)

How does the book of James (James 1:2-4) say we are to view trials?

- What does James give as the reward for being faithful during trials?
- Why can these good results often only come through discipline and trials?

In Luke 11, Jesus introduces his disciples to the idea of God as Father (Luke 11:2). The in Luke 11:11-13, Jesus compares our Heavenly Father with an earthly father providing for his child. Jesus asks "If a child asks for an egg, the father will not give him a scorpion, will he?" Jesus concludes by reminding us how much greater God is than earthly parents.

- How often do we see God's discipline as the "scorpion" given in place of the "egg" we asked for?
- In the movie, Bruce Almighty, a human (Bruce) assumes the role of God and answers every prayer with "yes". What was the result? Have you ever looked back and seen God's answer of "no" to a prayer as a blessing?
- Have you ever seen your prayer requests as asking for a snake when God wants to give you a fish? (Luke 11)

#### Warnings and Encouragement

Read Heb 12:12-17

#### **What to do**

Heb 12:12 begins with "therefore..." This indicates that our discipline is to produce a righteousness that we are to utilize for a greater good.

- What are we instructed to do? (vs 12-14)

# **life group study guide**

## **December 15, 2013**

- These commands are very proactive, indicating we are to be seeking out these acts and relationships. What are some specific ways that Christians can do this?
- vs 15 – Can discipline lead to bitterness? (See Eph 6:4)
  - How can we avoid this result—both as the child of God (not to be bitter ourselves) and as the parent with our own children (so as not to cause bitterness)?
- Rom 5:3-5 reiterates the attitude and desired results of trials and the discipline required to persevere. What are those desired results?

### **What not to do**

Esau is mentioned here as a bad example. He traded the short term gain (meal) for long term benefit (inheritance.)

- How do sin and temptation work like that in our lives?
- One method to attain discipline is “remembering what you want.” How does having a goal/vision help with discipline?

### Mountain of Fear of Mountain of Joy

Read Heb 12:18-29

- What reason does Jesus give to fear God? (Matt 10:28)
- Isaiah (Is 6:1-7) shows us Isaiah’s vision of God. What is his reaction to seeing God? (vs 5)
- Ezekiel (Ez 1:1-28) describes his vision of seeing God in His glory. What is his reaction (vs 28)
- We are to fear God—His wrath (Matt 10:28), His punishment (Ex 32:33-35; Prov 22:3; Is 13:11) and His judgment (Phil 2:12).
  - Job’s friends incorrectly determined Job’s trials were a punishment from God. How are we to know the difference between trials for discipline and those as punishment? Can we ever know?
  - What does it mean to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”? (Phil 2:12-13)

Heb 12:22-29 begins to describe heaven.

- What are descriptions given?
- What is our reaction to be? (vs 28)
- How can this vision help us with the endurance, discipline and perseverance needed to “run the race that is set before us” [Heb 12:1]?