



HEBREWS

JESUS IS BETTER

Hebrews 12:4-13

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons.

Hebrews 12:4-13

For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good,

Hebrews 12:4-13

that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ 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. ¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Outline

- 1. What is discipline of the Lord?**
- 2. Why does he discipline us?**
- 3. How should we respond?**

1. What is the discipline of the Lord?

Hebrews 12:4-6

1. What is the discipline of the Lord?

a) It is parental training

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a) It is parental training

b) It is painful



Suffering is not good in itself. In the fallen and partially redeemed universe we may distinguish between (1) the simple good descending from God, (2) the simple evil produced by rebellious creatures, and (3) the exploitation of that evil by God for his redemptive purposes, which produces (4) the complex good to which accepted suffering and repented sin contribute.

—C. S. Lewis



2. Why does he discipline us?

Hebrews 12:5-11

2. Why does he discipline us?

a) Because he loves us → suffering is proof of sonship

Hebrews 12:6-8

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

2. Why does he discipline us?

- a) Because he loves us → suffering is proof of sonship**
- b) For our good → suffering leads to holiness**

Hebrews 12:9-11

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

¹¹ 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.



. . . we shall be like the bee

That booms against the window-pane for hours

Thinking that way to reach the laden flowers.

‘If we could speak to her,’ my doctor said,

‘And told her, “Not that way! All, all in vain

You weary out your wings and bruise your head,”

Might she not answer, buzzing at the pane,

‘Let queens and mystics and religious bees

Talk of such inconceivables as glass;

The blunt lay worker flies at what she sees,

Look there – ahead, ahead – the flowers, the grass!”



**We catch her in a handkerchief (who knows
What rage she feels, what terror, what despair!)
And shake her out – and gaily out she goes
Where quivering flowers stand thick in summer air,
To drink their hearts. But left to her own will
She would have died upon the window-sill.**

—C. S. Lewis, “Five Sonnets”



3. How should we respond?

Hebrews 12:12-13

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a) Strengthen one another

Hebrews 12:12-13

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

3. How should we respond?

a) Strengthen one another

b) Consider Jesus's suffering and glory

Hebrews 12:3

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

3. How should we respond?

a) Strengthen one another

b) Consider Jesus's suffering and glory



'He came down from Heaven' can almost be transposed into 'Heaven drew earth up into it', and locality, limitation, sleep, sweat, footsore weariness, frustration, pain, doubt and death, are, from before all worlds, known by God from within. The pure light walks the earth, the darkness, received into the heart of Deity is there swallowed up. Where, except in uncreated light, can the darkness be drowned?

—C. S. Lewis