

“Responding to God when we are chastened”

Text: Psalm 6:1-10 “O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed. My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long? Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake. For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks? I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies. Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer. Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly...”

Purpose: The purpose of this Psalm is to express to God how we feel when we have come under His chastening hand, and how we should respond under that load of guilt and fear.

Proposition: God wants us to respond correctly to Him when we are chastened.

Interrogative: How can we do this?

Section 1: The details of Psalm 6:

Question 1: What was David’s fear? 6:1 “O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

Two words that David recognized were being directed toward him:

- **Rebuke:** to call attention to wrong that someone has done
- **Chasten:** to discipline

Two motivations that David feared:

- “In thine anger...”
- “In thy hot displeasure...”

Question 2: How did David feel under this load?

- **His mind and body were overwhelmed:** “I am weak...”
- **His body was in pain:** “My bones are vexed...”
- **His mind was in pain:** “My soul is also sore vexed...”
- **He felt overwhelmed by the duration of his grief:** “Lord how long...”
- **He wept bitterly under the load of his grief: 6:6-7** “I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. Mine eye is consumed because of grief...”

Question 3: What did David know was true about what he was experiencing?

Four facts that David understood in his suffering:

- **Fact 1: He knew that his sin had separated him from communion with God:** “Return, O LORD...”
- **Fact 2: He knew that God was his only hope in these desperate times:** “deliver my soul: oh save me...”
- **Fact 3: He knew that his greatest comfort was God’s compassion:** “for thy mercies' sake...”

- **Fact 4: He knew that the presence of his enemies was directly connected to God's decision to remove His restraining hand on David's enemies:** "Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping..."

Question 4: How does David appeal to God?

- **He prayed for a restoration of communion:** "Return, O LORD..."
- **He prayed for deliverance:** "deliver my soul..."
- **He prayed that God would look mercifully on him:** "oh save me for thy mercies' sake..."
- **He asked God to preserve his life:** "in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?"

Question 5: What brought David confidence when he prayed 8-9 "the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer..."

- **David understood God's character**
- **David understood how God works in people's lives**
- **David trusted God to respond mercifully to him**

Section 2: Understanding chastening:

- **Question 1: What is chastening?**

Ephesians 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the **nurture** and admonition of the Lord..." (the Greek term is used 6x in the NT)

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, **for instruction in righteousness...**"

Hebrews 12:5-14 "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the **chastening** of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: ⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he **chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. ⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ⁸ But if ye be without **chastisement**, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. ¹² Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; ¹³ And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. ¹⁴ Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord..."

- Chastening is not:
 - The natural consequences of our sin
 - Judgment in a legal sense
 - Only disciplinary correction

- Chastening is the personal, loving process that our heavenly father uses to teach us what is right, correct us when we are wrong, discipline when we are stubborn, and stretch us when we need to take new steps of growth into Christlikeness.
- **Question 2: Why does God chasten us?**
 - He loves us
 - It is a necessary part of our growth into Christlikeness
- **Question 3: How does God chasten us?**
 - **Instructs us:** He gives us His word and godly mentors
 - **Corrects us:** He allows us to stumble so we can be properly instructed and that instruction will cement into our hearts.
 - **Disciplines us:** He resists us when we have repeatedly rebelled against His gracious warning.
 - **Stretches us:** He guides our steps into circumstances that will be the instruments He uses to initiate new growth into Christlikeness.
- **Question 3: How do we feel when we are chastened?**
 - Weary
 - Alone
 - Downcast
 - Fearful
- **Question 4: What confidence can we have when we are chastened?**
 - We know God's character.
 - We know how God works in people's lives.
 - We can trust God to respond mercifully to us in our time of need.

Conclusion: God wants us to respond correctly to Him when we are chastened, so let's humbly submit to His wisdom and His ways!