

SERMON NOTES - Childish Pain

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

1Co 13:11 HNV - "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away **childish** things."

1. BRIEF RECAP - We must be childLIKE not Childish

Mar 10:15 NKJV — "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child (CHILDLIKE) will by no means enter it."

1 Co 14:20 (NKJV) "Brethren, do not be children in **understanding**; however, in **malice** be babes, but in **understanding** be mature."

"Childlikeness" = TRUST, HUMILITY, DEPENDENCE, INNOCENCE, PURITY

2. We must PUT AWAY Childish things.

We must be intentional and ruthless. In order to do this we must know what these childish things are, AND keep the childlike things.

3. When I was a child I had CHILDISH PAIN

When we are kids our trials and pain are usually minor, and yet we think of them as huge, we react with horror and terror and a lot of emotion, and we try to avoid pain at any cost.

As we mature we learn that trials and pain can yield good results, and we become much more wise in handling pain.

Childish responses to pain:

- Surprise, shock, Horror, Histrionics
- Avoid at all costs
- Victim (it's not fair), AND/OR cry (sad), AND/OR bitter and cynical

Adult responses to pain:

- Not surprised
- Understand the value and use of it
- Victor (overcome), Peace (rejoice), better and faith filled

When my children were little they would love to go on walks with us adults, but the pain in their little legs after a very short time meant they would complain and eventually cry and refuse to continue until they were picked up and carried.

Now that they're older, they choose to go on long walks or runs, and push through the pain, because they see it in a bigger context and realise it can have benefits and advantages for them in the long term.

How do we put away Childish responses to pain to become mature?

4. Jabez' example:

1Ch 4:9-10 NKJV - "9 Now Jabez was more honourable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez (Literally "*He Will Cause Pain*"), saying, "Because I bore him in pain." 10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain! (ESV - "*might not bring me pain*")" So God granted him what he requested."

- more honourable than his brothers - he reacted differently - in a mature way - to pain
- He called on the God of Israel - call on God. Run toward God. Involve God.
- Oh, that You would bless me ... indeed, We need to know He wants to bless but His blessing can be different to what the world seeks and values. Through pain can come blessing.
- enlarge my territory - (1 Chron 2:55 - a town was named after him)... there are enemies
- Your hand would be with me - His power, presence and guidance.
- keep me from evil - the crux of the matter. And yet sometimes there is pain even where we have not committed evil.

- That I may not cause pain! (ESV - "might not bring me pain")
- God granted him what he requested!

5. WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY PAIN:

1 Peter 4:12-16 (NKJV) 12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

Jhn 16:33 NKJV - "33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.""

6. THERE IS A VALUE & PURPOSE OF IT

1Pe 1:6-7 CSB - "6 You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials (**peirasmos**) 7 so that the proven character (**dokimion**) of your faith -- more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined (**dokimazō**) by fire -- may result in praise, glory, and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Jas 1:2-4 CSB - "2 Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials (**peirasmos**), 3 because you know that the testing (**dokimion**) of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing."

8. Testing and coming through pain is needed to become a mature leader:

1Ti 3:6 NKJV — "6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil."

1Ti 3:9 NKJV — "9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience."

1Ti 3:10 NKJV — "10 But let these also first be tested (**dokimazō**); then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless."

1Ti 3:13 NKJV — "13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

7. WE ARE CALLED TO OVERCOME

1 John 5:4 NKJV - 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

Rev 2-3 - "to him who overcomes..." (7 times)

9. How do we parent well with this in mind?

- Allow your kids to experience some consequences of their actions and of the harsh world out there. Don't always protect them and more so as they grow older
- Be honest and real with them about hardships in life, and in your own life. Show them reality and the harshness of the world. We can either:
 - Protect, shield and hide them from everything harsh in which case they will be shattered when they leave home OR
 - Gently show them the real world so that they're ready when they grow up.

OTHER VERSES USED:

Jos 1:8 NKJV - "8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Hebrews 11:35-40 - The heroes of the faith did not always have victory over trials but were sometimes victorious through it.

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Mark 4:35 - Jesus calming the storm

John 15:20, Matthew 10:25 - If Jesus was hated we will be too.

Hebrews 12:2 NKJV - "2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Jhn 9:2-3 NKJV - "2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."

Luk 13:4-5 NKJV - "4 "Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

Rom 8:28 NKJV - "28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

GOD DOESN'T CAUSE PAIN BUT HE USES IT -

Jas 1:12-17 CSB - "12 Blessed is the one who endures trials (*peirasmos*), because when he has stood the test (*dokimos*) he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. 13 No one undergoing a trial (*peirazō*) should say, "I am being tempted (*peirazō*) by God," since God is not tempted (*apeirastos*) by evil, and he himself doesn't tempt (*peirazō*) anyone. 14 But each person is tempted (*peirazō*) when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. 15 Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death. 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.