

Good God, Bad God?

One Of The Strangest Stories Ever!

Numbers 21:1-9

Some Tips And Truths About Family:

Hebrews 12:4-11 Psalms 119:71 Proverbs 3:11-12

A great dad will always:

- ✓ Keep the **big picture** in mind.
- ✓ **Cause pain** if it saves the life of his child.
- ✓ Protect the **relationship** with his **kids** at all costs.

Most children will never:

- ✓ See **dad** as fair if **short term** happiness is their goal.
- ✓ See discipline as a **blessing**.

Dad's Big Picture:

John 3:1-21 2 Corinthians 5:21 1 Corinthians 1:18 Isaiah 45:22
Romans 1:19-20, 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-11, 12:1-2

- ✓ There are some things only **The Father** can **fix**.
- ✓ There is a HUGE difference between **believing** the **truth**,
and **trusting in** the **truth**.

Food for Thought for the week of July 3, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Chris talked this weekend about a very important aspect of God's nature - his discipline. We read in Hebrews 12 that God ties his discipline with his love; even though we most often associate any kind of discipline with shame or anger. That's because we are incapable of perfect love, and we haven't seen it modeled in our lives. With that in mind, let's take a look at God's perfect love and discipline and how it is presented in the following verses. What do they teach us about the relationship between love and discipline?

Revelation 3:19-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Hebrews 12:5-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

2. Have you ever felt like you were in a season of being refined in your life? How did you respond? The Bible tells us that in a season of trial, if we endure the trial in a way that is honoring to God, we are promised a reward. Read the following verses to see the promises that are associated with trials and discipline for a Christian who perseveres through them in Jesus.

1 Peter 5:10 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

James 1:12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

Romans 5:3-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

James 1:2-8 *New International Version (NIV)*

Trials and Temptations

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let

perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Romans 8:18-20 *New International Version (NIV)*

Present Suffering and Future Glory

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

3. What areas of trial have you or your family experienced in your lives? How did you handle them and what was the result? If you were able to have handled them differently, what would you have changed?

Sometimes in trials, the people closest to us can get caught in the backwash. As you finish up your time of devotion, consider someone you may want to reach out to and ask for forgiveness, who might have been caught up in the backwash of a trial that you may have handled poorly. It might be difficult, but consider the following verse as encouragement.

2 Timothy 1:7 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.