

#1 - INTRODUCTION

I. Media

VIDEO - *"Slow down"*

II. Setup

1. A Lack of Discipline Is A Poor Witness

(1) Modern Discipline

- i. *"We don't spank, we count"* - No spanking, only counting.
- ii. *"We don't do threats, we do timeouts"* - Not counting, only timeout.
- iii. *"We don't do threats, we do encouragement"* - Not timeout (isolation/rejection), in fact no punishments, only encouragement and positive reinforcement.

Proverbs 29:15 - *"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."*

(2) All behavior is communication

(1) All discipline is a response

2. Words of Caution

(1) Not going to tell you exactly "how" to discipline, but rather "how not" to discipline and some idea what should and shouldn't be on the table.

(2) As you speak about this with others (e.g. MC's)...please be very careful about introducing your subjectivity .

VIDEO - *"La Chankla"*

- i. Experiences tend to inform our approaches

Proverbs 12:1 - *"Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid."*

Ephesians 6:4 - *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*



#2 - AN UNDERSTANDING OF DISCIPLINE (Psalm 23)

I. The Authority of God (v1-2)

1. Protection Requires A Protector (The Lord Is My Shepherd)
2. Provision Requires A Provider (I Shall Not Want)

II. The Intent of God (v3-4a)

1. Recompense (Green Pastures)
2. Restoration (Still Waters/Restores my soul)
3. Righteousness

III. The Discipline of God (v4b)

1. What is Discipline? (A Means To His Intended End)

(1) Old Testament

(1) Chastise (correction)

Psalm 94:12-14 - *"Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O Lord, and whom you teach out of your law, to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked. For the Lord will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage..."*

Proverbs 22:15 - *"Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away."*

- i. Proportionate, momentary discomfort that produces steadfast, persistent joy.

(2) New Testament

(1) Training (instruction)

2 Timothy 2:25 - *"...correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth..."*

Ephesians 6:4 - *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*

- i. God doesn't just tell us "no"...he tells us why and gives us a better "yes".

2 Cor. 1:20 - *"For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory."*

(2) Discipline is about "disciple" making (paideia)

(1) Chastise

Lk. 23:16 - *"I will therefore **punish** and release him."*

(2) Instruct

Titus 2:12 - *"...**training** us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age..."*

(3) Child

Lk. 11:7 - *"...Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my **children** are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything..."*

2. Rod & Staff

(1) Rod (correction)

- i. Each shepherd boy, from the time he first starts to tend his father's flock, takes special pride in the selection of a rod and staff exactly suited to his own size and strength. He goes into the bush and selects a young sapling which is dug from the ground. This is carved and whittled down with great care and patience. The enlarged base of the sapling where its trunk joins the roots is shaped into a smooth, rounded head of hard wood. The sapling itself is shaped to exactly fit the owner's hand. After he completes it, the shepherd boy spends hours practicing with this club, leaning how to throw it with amazing speed and accuracy. It becomes his main weapon of defense for both himself and his sheep. ...the rod, in fact, was an extension of the owner's own right arm. It stood as a symbol of his strength, his power, his authority in any serious situation.
- ii. Rod - Deterrant (strength, correction) (which way you shouldn't go)

(2) Staff (instruction)

- i. The staff is essentially a symbol of the concern, the compassion that a shepherd has for his charges. No other single word can better describe its function on behalf of the flock than that it is for their "comfort."
- ii. Whereas the rod conveys the concept of authority, of power, of discipline, of defense against danger, the word "staff" speaks of all that is long-suffering and kind.
- iii. The staff is used by the shepherd to reach out and catch individual sheep, young or old, and draw them close to himself for intimate examination. The staff is very useful this way for the shy and timid sheep normally tend to keep at a distance from the shepherd.
- iv. The staff is also used for guiding sheep. Again and again I have seen a shepherd use his staff to guide his sheep gently into a new path or through some gate or along dangerous, difficult routes. He does not use it actually to beat the beast. Rather, the tip of the long slender stick is laid gently against the animal's side and the pressure applied guides the sheep in the way the owner wants it to go. Thus the sheep is reassured of its proper path.
- v. Staff - Instruction (which way you should go)

IV. The Blessings of God (v6)

1. The Result of Discipline

(1) Abundance

- i. Recompense
- ii. Restoration
- iii. Righteousness

(2) Assurance

Proverbs 29:17 - *"Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart."*



#3 - A LEGACY OF DISCIPLINE (Hebrews 12:5-12)

I. (v5a) Discipline Should Be A Plan, Not A Reaction

1. What is your Plan For Discipline At The Stage of Kids' Life?
 - (1) Their stage
 - (2) Their composition
 - (3) Their response

II. (v5b) Discipline Should Build Up, Not Wear Down

1. Therefore, it should be primarily instructive and peripherally punitive.
 - (1) Some of you, discipline is about being primarily punitive, with instruction as an afterthought.
 - (2) You have the rod part down...but what about the staff?

III. (v6-8) Discipline Should Evidence Love, Not Anger

1. Biblically speaking, a lack of discipline, is a lack of love.
2. Never discipline angry? Then for some of you, you would never discipline
 - (1) You can discipline when you have anger...you just can't discipline when anger has you.
 - (2) Having anger, evidences love. Anger having you, does not.
 - i. Do you know how many kids engage in destructive behavior because they're trying to get some kind of response from their parents.

IV. (v9-11) Discipline Should Be About Tomorrow's Joy, Not Today's Comfort

1. Nearsighted Parenting

V. (v12-13) Discipline Should Allow For Finite Reminders, Not Irrevocable Damage

1. Proportional to stage, composition, and response.

Proverbs 23:13 - "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die."

#4 - CONCLUSION

I. God's Discipline In The Gospel

1 Cor. 9:24-27 - "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

VIDEO - "Chisel"

