



The Kingdom Perspective

God's Discipline of His Children

Hello, this is Pastor Don Willeman of Christ Redeemer Church. Welcome to The Kingdom Perspective.

It is in our nature to want things to be easy always—for life to be sunny with no storms. Sounds good, right? However, do you know what you call a place that's sunny all the time and never rains? A desert!

Sometimes God purposes to bring us through the desert, a wilderness—a difficult and dry place. But He means well for us—to drive us to hope in Him and to prepare us for His unimaginable blessings.

I take great comfort in Deuteronomy 8 where God says He “deals with us as with sons”. He calls this manner of relating to us “discipline”, a word that doesn’t translate well into our contemporary understanding. “Discipline” sounds punitive, as if God is angry and disappointed. But at its root is the word, “disciple”. The Lord is “discipling” us—He is training us—because He loves us as His own dear children. No good parent fails to disciple, to train, their children for the full responsibility and blessing of adulthood. This requires going through circumstances of both delight and difficulty.

And in this God's heart is tender toward us and our weaknesses; He only means to strengthen our resolve to seek Him first—so we are not foolish children pursuing the wrong things. His goal is to train us—to prepare us to handle the overflowing bounty of all He intends to share with us, not only in this life, but more so in the one to come.

And that's something to think about from The Kingdom Perspective.

“You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord. Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. Thus you are to know in your heart that the Lord your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.”

~Deuteronomy 8:1-10 (NASB95)

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