

August 22

Jeremiah 46:28 (NIV) Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant, for I am with you,” declares the LORD. “Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.” **Micah 7:9 (NIV)** ⁹ Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord’s wrath, until he pleads my case and upholds my cause. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

During one of my classes, we were going over copious notes which we would have a test, so I encouraged my students to take good notes. After several days of note taking and discussion, I announced they would take the test the next day. I watched my class closely, and when they were about finished with the test, I told them they could take out their notes for the next ten minutes. At the end of the ten minutes, they would turn in their tests. Most students immediately grabbed their notes, but a few claimed I was being unfair because they had very few notes. I reminded them that I advised them to take good notes, but they stated I never told them they could use them on the test.

Often, when we read scriptures, we focus on parts that appeal to us. God tells us not to be afraid because He is with us. He will deal with those who oppose us. He will bring us into the light that we can be His righteousness. When we do this, we gloss over other statements that are just as important. God will not completely destroy us when He disciplines us, but He will discipline us. When we sin against Him, He can become angry. His anger and discipline are always a result of our actions or inactions. When we know we are to do good but do not do it, we sin (James 4:17). However, we take the position my students had taken. They were not responsible; I was because I did not tell them why they were to take notes. When God tells us to do this or not to do that, our faith in Him and His word should not require a reason why. His love will manifest itself as blessings. His love will also demonstrate itself in discipline. We are not to run from His correction because He will not let us go unpunished. That is love.