

(The Church Needs to Know) 7. the Road Is Narrow

by Miki Hardy

Miki Hardy emphasizes that the Christian journey is a narrow and challenging path that requires faith, obedience, and acceptance of suffering for spiritual growth and sanctification.

Duration: 1:08:58

Scripture: Matthew 7:13, Hebrews 12:1, Hebrews 12:5

Topics: "Narrow Road"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of understanding the message of the gospel and having the heart of Jesus. He highlights that following Jesus is not always easy and comfortable, but it requires sacrifice and perseverance. The preacher mentions biblical figures like Noah, Moses, Abraham, and Abel who found favor with God by walking through the narrow gate and difficult path. He concludes by stating that regardless of personal preferences, the message of the gospel remains unchanged and it is necessary to fully commit and surrender to God's will.

Transcript

We are going to continue today on the same topic that we've been sharing for the last, I would say, about six months. The Church needs to know, okay? And today I would like to encourage Christians to understand that the Christian life is a narrow road. Probably contrary to what some or many of you believe.

But Jesus himself, when he talks about following him, he talks about a narrow road compared to a wide road. And that's why we want to open the scripture in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 7. We are going to what Jesus said. And I like to pay attention to what Jesus says.

Because whatever he said is important for us. Because if we do not understand and do what Jesus said, we might have bad consequences in our own life. Because we have chosen not to obey or follow what Jesus told us.

So it's not a question of doing whatever we want and whatever we like. We are called to humble ourselves and realize that God is above all. He is our Father.

But he has shown us the way. And he has told us even before we continue to walk with him that the road, the gate, the gate is narrow. And this has got many explanations.

So wherever you are, I would like you to just be with us for this session so that we might know what is the plan of God. That's why every Christian needs to know that as we serve the Lord, the road is narrow. You've got to go through a gate which is narrow and then to start to walk on a path, on a road.

Now open your Bibles with me in Matthew chapter 7. We read from verse 13. Enter by the narrow gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction. Okay, wide is the gate as you enter in and broad is the way.

Does that make sense for everyone here? The gate is wide so there's no problem to go through the gate. And also it says broad is the way on which you're walking. In other words, there's room, there's space.

There's freedom to do what you want and there are many who are who go in by it. Many, many choose to go that way. Many choose an easy lifestyle.

Many choose not to hear anything else except a comfortable, easy Christian lifestyle. Rich in many blessings and rich in many, many, many good things and don't want to hear about anything else as they walk their way with Jesus. Wide is the gate, broad is the way, and many go in by it.

Why? There's a reason. It says because. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way.

Are we talking about Christian life here? Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way. So right from the start if you think that Christian life is easy, you've missed it. Right from the start.

If you believe that Christian life is just blessings and hallelujah and bless me, give me gospel, you've missed it from the start. It says difficult is the way that leads to life, to life. Now Jesus is not talking about physical life.

He's talking about spiritual life. If you want life, if you want Christ life, if you want resurrection life, if you want the life of the Spirit, you need to know that as you walk on this narrow gate and difficult way, you will receive it. And there are few who find it.

It's amazing. It's amazing. There are few who find it.

The words of Jesus, many hear, many have a desire, but not a multitude continues to live their Christian life and giving their lives and walk on that difficult way. When we look at the Bible and we look at the epistles and the words of Jesus and his life and the life of the Christians of the early church, we understand that there is no real Christianity without pain. No real Christianity without pain.

Pain in many ways, but we cannot just see Christianity as a life which is just void of any difficult situation, of any test or trial, of any persecution, of any life that you've got to give as a sacrifice. When you find the real definition of Christianity, you understand that you cannot live with Jesus without pain. Now I'm not talking here about physical pain.

I'm talking about what needs to happen in our hearts and lives, because if we want to serve the Lord and allow him to do the work that he wants to do in your life, it is painful. It's not easy to accept the breaking of God in your life. It's not something that you ask for.

But unfortunately, it comes your way and you have to decide to accept. And may I say that there is little, very little spiritual growth to all those Christians that do not accept the work of Christ in their lives. Very little spiritual growth.

In other words, Christians remain babies. They don't grow because they have not been taught to have the attitude they need to have in the midst of trials and tests and persecution. They are not taught the attitude that they need to have.

And all they want is to get rid of the situation. That's what they want. They want to get rid of the situation.

Whenever God puts something before them, whenever there is a test, whenever there is a trial of their faith, whenever there is a confrontation, whether it can be a chastening or a correction from God, they want to run away from it. They will pray so that the situation just dissolves, disappears. And Christians are not taught to carry an attitude of heart where they've got to face these things by faith in the grace of God so as to grow.

When you look at all the great men of God in the Old Testament, you understand that God was busy confronting their lives, testing their faith. They went through trials, through persecution, through correction by God. And what was the result? They became great men of the Spirit, great men of faith.

God has never used people cheaply. God never uses people in a mighty way unless there's a mighty work that he does in their lives. He doesn't do it.

And mainly in the time that we are living in the last days, God is busy choosing, calling man and woman, the church, to understand what he wants to do. The deep and mighty work that he wants to do in our lives so that he can do a deep and mighty work through us and in the world and in the church. And we need to understand that whatever God wants to do in our lives, it's for a work of sanctification.

That's why the church needs to know what type of attitude and heart that they need to have to face the tests and trials and correction and confrontation and chastening that God wants to do and bring in their lives so that they may live a righteous life. We cannot deviate. We cannot deviate from what God wants to do in our lives if we want to serve him.

I have learned my lesson. I have learned. God has opened my eyes.

You know, I thought that I could do wonders for God. I could do great things for God by holding on to my life, never understanding that God wanted to mold me and change me to his image. And my attitude was that Jesus has done everything and now I've got all his promises and I can stand on all his promises and not to worry about my life but do only what I feel to do in the ministry.

That's why I got discouraged because every Christian that does not experience the mighty hand of God on his life to work in him and mold him to the image of Christ somewhere down the road is going to be discouraged. He won't be able to continue or if he continues because of his pride, he will fail. He will walk in defeat.

He will use all sorts of tactics to try and build the church with Jesus. The church needs to know what attitude we need to have as Christians. There are too many Christians that suffer the wrong suffering.

You know, when God wants to do something in their lives, when you run away from what God wants to do in your life, it's not for your own benefit. I'm going to tell you something, you're going to suffer but you suffer consequences instead of going through the right suffering to bring you to righteousness and sanctification. Can you understand what I'm saying? When you run away from God, you go through a suffering that is not from him and this is when the devil crushes you down and finishes you and you get

discouraged and you leave the church and you go into the world or you stay in the church so discouraged having no vision, your life is in a mess because you are going through a suffering that is not godly.

Yeah, it is not from God but all Christians, we are supposed to go through a suffering by the hand of God not to destroy us, not to finish us, not to crush us down but to bring us to become a righteous man and woman. It's a work of sanctification and it comes with trials, it comes with tests, it's come by chastening, it comes through correction, it comes through confrontation. When you don't want the hand of God on your life, I tell you, you are crushed down by the situation instead of using the situation to grow and allow God to work in you and strengthen you and set you free.

Then what happens, the situation kills you. It's not God, it's not God, it's a situation but you can use the situation in the right spirit when you understand that God is at work, that God has allowed a few things to come your way. We are called to face issues of life, trials, tests that come our way from God, persecution.

God allows it to happen because it's for our good. It's only when we accept chastening that we are true sons, correction of God and we should face these issues in faith, knowing that God's grace is available because we want to grow, because we see growth at the end of the day. At the end of this time of test and trial or whatever that might be, we know there is growth, spiritual growth, sanctification, a life of righteousness.

Righteousness. Christians must know we can't just run away from things or try to have a shortcut. I don't want to get discouraged by situations, I want to face them in faith, knowing that somewhere down the road there's something in my life that God is dealing with.

God is dealing with something in me. And how many of you know that this is nearly every day, you know, every day. Sometimes things happen in my life, I've got to go out and walk, I've got to go out and walk and seek God.

Sometimes my wife says to me, why didn't you tell me you're somewhere? I mean, I'm somewhere. I'm walking somewhere in the garden. I'm picking up some trees, some fruits.

I'm telling you the truth. So easy to just turn the page and continue. But I've learned, and every Christian should learn, everyone should understand that we need to have an attitude of heart where our faith is tested.

God, help me. In faith I accept it. Amen or no? There is a good suffering that we need to experience.

Good. That's why we talk about the message of the cross. That's why we talk about our identification with the sufferings of Christ, with the death of Christ, so as to partake to resurrection life.

You know, when you talk about all these messages, you come to one place, the cross of Jesus Christ. That's where you end up to. That's why when you talk about the Bible, when you preach, where are you going? Where are you ending? Where do you end? Where do we end? Where do we stop that might speak to us, confront us, shake our lives? Where do we end? We end at the cross.

That's where we end. That's our life. That's our identification.

That's our sacrifice. Now I want you to know something. When you open your Bibles in the book of Hebrews chapter 11, and you see these men of faith, now I want you to realize something.

See something in their spirit. When we talk about faith, I don't believe that Abraham was destroyed when he accepted to go and sacrifice his son on the mountain. I don't think he was destroyed by what God has asked of him.

I don't think so. You know what? He used that test to strengthen his faith. I'm sure there was pain and suffering which was linked to that walk of faith.

I'm sure it was a challenge. He didn't start to explain and to argue with God. The same way that we understand that there was pain and suffering that this man was going through to take up his son Isaac and go and sacrifice him.

But at the same time, deep down in his heart, this man was not crushed down. He was not finished. His life didn't turn in a mess.

But God helped him by his grace to sustain, if that word is right, the pain and the suffering even if he thought that if he died, God would raise him from the dead. But you know, if you are a father and a mother, you must know if God challenges you to take your son or your daughter away from you. He was a man of faith.

That was a challenge. He experienced pain and suffering. He walked up that mountain.

He was not angry. Do you understand? He was not angry against God. He obeyed God.

He had a humble heart before God. At the same time, inside there, it was turning. Oh, everything in him was turning upside down.

It was painful. He suffered. He kept the faith.

That's why the Bible says, by faith. Look at the life of Moses. He didn't die.

He was not finished because he chose, the Bible says, to suffer afflictions than to enjoy the pleasures of sin. He chose. You think Moses was a finished man and he went to cry every day, having self-pity and mourning because he has decided to put sin at the back of his life but to enjoy afflictions.

Now, we're talking about an attitude of heart. We're talking about a narrow road. We're talking about the Christian life.

And if you believe that you can escape, you're deceived. If you think you can escape the cross, you are deceived. If you think you can patch up your life by a few sermons that you hear, you are deceived because there is a limit when you patch up a piece of cloth.

You can't patch it up all your life. You can't patch it up all your life. I'll show you.

I've got a pair of shorts. It was about that long when I bought it. I've cut it twice.

You know why I cut it twice? Not because to make it shorter, because it was finished. But I like it. But one day it will have to go in the bin.

Unfortunately, because I like it, it will have to go in the bin because you can't patch up your life eternally. You've got to take up that cross one day. And God has not designed the cross to finish you, to kill you, to destroy you emotionally or spiritually or physically.

The cross is not there to destroy you in spirit, in soul, and in body. No. And Moses was not destroyed.

He didn't die when he decided to endure the afflictions and the sufferings. It costed him. There was a price to decide not to live according to the pleasures of sin.

He had everything he could have. But praise God, there's another man of God, another man of faith, another man who decided to take up his cross. Moses took the cross.

He preferred to endure the pain and the suffering and the affliction in himself. He didn't die for that. He didn't want to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, I tell you.

And the Bible talks about that man today. The Bible talks about Abraham today. There can be many men today that have written books.

They've passed away. Their names are gone. Their names are gone.

We may look at men of God that have known what it is to live with God, to walk with God, to please God, to obey God, to humble themselves before God, to accept, to suffer with Christ. I want to remind you, if you just walked in, we're talking about a narrow road. Now do you think that Abel, do you think that Abel was sad when he brought to God the firstborn of his flock? The firstborn of his flock.

You think he came there? Dear God, here is my firstborn. Here is my sacrifice to you, but please next time ask me something else. You think that's how Abel come to build that altar and bring that firstborn of his flock to God? Yes, it must have cost him something.

Yes, but it didn't die. It didn't die. And Cain came, you know, 25 pineapple, 35, I don't know what, figs, five kilos of pumpkins, and all that he has worked with his hands with, all the works of his flesh, and he wanted to impress God.

He came before God and he says, God, look at me. I'm sweating all over. I'm dirty.

I've picked up for the last 10 hours, I've picked up all this for you, God. Pride of men. He was just full of himself.

Yeah, there was nothing happening in him, nothing. In fact, he came to show off his pride, show off his ability. Yeah, you want to serve God, to show God about your abilities and your belongings and what you've got, go and hide yourself.

You can go and hide yourself, but come to God with a humble heart. Come to God with a broken spirit. Come to God as a sacrifice, ready to partake to his sufferings.

Yeah, you've got, then you will have his approval. Yes, but unfortunately, it needs to happen that way. And the only way you can't exchange it, then the cross of Jesus Christ will be of no avail.

We need to understand the gospel. We need to understand the spirit of the gospel and stop playing church and drawing people far from the plan and the will of God. By faith, Noah build an ark.

Yeah, I think about it. Just think about Noah. Just think about this guy.

He paid the price. He paid the price. You want to serve God without giving your life? You want to serve God the way you want with yourself? You'll make a mess of your life.

You'll make a mess of your life. Did Noah die? Did Moses die for having done what God asked them to do? Did Abraham die? Did Abel die? Or did they find favor before God? Did they find favor before God? Why? I can say today that all these men of God, they walked through that narrow gate and walked on that difficult path. And today here we are with the same message.

You can't change it, sir. Even if you would like to. You cannot change that.

Do you understand? The very weak, yes. But anyway, you like it or not, that's the way. That's not my problem.

2 Corinthians chapter 4. 2 Corinthians chapter 4, we read from verse 8. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed, yet not crushed. Can you see? Have you seen that? The guys are, they were hard-pressed, hard-pressed from every side. Behind, before, left, right, hard-pressed.

But they were like Moses. They were like Abraham. They were like Abel.

They were like Noah. They were all these men of faith. Gone through trials and tests.

The apostle James talks about the trial of their faith. The test and the trial of their faith. You're pressed down from everywhere, from everywhere, but you're still going, but you're still going.

There are those who are never pressed, but flat on their face. Yeah, you know why? Because sin has destroyed their lives. Yeah, because there was not a work of sanctification in their lives.

There was no work of God in their lives. There's nothing happening. Nothing happening.

Cool, comfortable, nice, easy. No shaking, no trial, no test. What happens to those people? I've found out that they are no more serving God.

We are perplexed, but we are not in despair. In other words, I don't know what's happening, Lord. I'm perplexed.

I don't understand what's happening here. I'm in a mess. I'm in a hole.

I've got everything up on my shoulder. Can you see what I'm saying here? Can you see what the guy is saying here? But he's not in despair. Incredible, incredible.

He doesn't understand why things are happening. He's not that type of guy who sits down and says, Lord, why? Lord, I need to understand. When you come to that place that you need to understand, you get confused.

But when you say, God, I don't understand, and I don't want to understand. Here I am at the bottom of this hole. Help me.

Help me by your grace to stand. Can you see? I don't understand, but I've hope. I have faith.

I still can rejoice in my heart for what God is about to do. Persecuted, but not forsaken. That's normal lifestyle.

I'm persecuted, but I'm not forsaken. God, you have not forsaken me. Where I am now, I understand that the master, the servant cannot be different from the master.

If you have been persecuted, Lord, and I want to live with you, I know that this is my share. But I know also, Jesus, that you will not forsake me. You will not abandon me.

You will restore me. Now, what I'm seeing here, what am I seeing here? Now, we're talking about three situations here, okay? Three situations. Three situations.

Do you think that these guys were going through a hard time in them? Or do you think that these things did not even touch them? Let me tell you something. These guys were in trouble. These guys were in trouble.

These guys were experiencing somehow the same things that we talked about concerning Moses, Abraham, Abel, and all the rest, but not crushed down, not finished, not died, not forsaken by God. We're talking about real Christianity. Yeah, we're talking about real Christianity.

It's no time, my dear friends, to be self-pity, to have self-pity. It's not time to go and mourn about things. You can cry because you are suffering.

That's okay. It's no problem. No problem.

Things are going tough inside. Yes, it's painful. Yes, hard to swallow.

Yes, there are times there are things that are hard to swallow. Yeah, but we are not finished. We are not finished.

There is more grace. There is abundant grace, not only in our lives, but in the lives of others. Let me tell you, we're not talking about give me, bless me Christianity.

We're talking about a narrow gate. Okay? A narrow gate and a difficult path. I did not invent it.

Jesus told it. And if it doesn't suit you, you can't change his words. You can't change it.

It's written there. And I want to tell you that as soon as you desire to serve the Lord, these are the things that come your way. As soon as you set up on that course and you say, God, I'm going to serve you with all my heart.

I'm going to give you my life. I will identify my life with you. Things start to happen.

It's amazing, huh? Because when God knows and sees what you are ready to do and to accept, he's now ready to test you. He's now ready to put the trial before you. He's now ready to allow you to go through persecution.

He's now ready to confront you. He's now ready to correct you, stop you, spank you, shake you. But the moment that you say, Lord, it's good to come to church on Sunday morning and sit down and relax.

Lord, wonderful. I've got nice people here. I feel it's lovely, the love of the Lord.

I feel that these guys are special. Yeah, but deep down in your heart, it's nothing more than just trying to benefit from the presence of the Lord. And your life is yours.

Let me tell you, my friend, nothing much will happen to your life. And the only thing that can happen to your life is that Satan is going to give you a hard time. Yes, he's going to give you a hard time.

But God is not giving you a hard time. God is the Father. We heard earlier on, what did we hear earlier on? That our Father in heaven, if you're asking something good, is he going to give you a snake? No.

All the things that he does in our lives is for us to grow in his image and become mature and strong in the spirit. But the devil has got another plan. He's got another plan.

If you sit down and do nothing for God, the devil is at work. If you stand up and do something for God, God is at work. Yeah, it's amazing.

You sit down and do nothing. You don't want to act by faith. You don't want to walk on that water.

You don't want to give your life. You don't want to deny yourself. You don't want to take up that cross.

How can you talk about tests and trials and persecution and whatnot? There's no persecution on that road. You're enjoying yourself. But one day, Satan is at the door and you've got to watch out.

It can be you, your family, your work. Anything can happen to you. Anything.

But God is not that way. Let's put our Bibles in. Now, you can carry on looking at 2 Corinthians 4, 8-12.

That's the idea of what I'm sharing with you. It's the same idea. It's the same thing that you're going to read and understand.

Now, put your Bibles with me now in the book of Hebrews. Are you still there? Have you left your lounge? Have you left here at this now? Come on. Stay with us.

Stay with us, guys. Okay. Verse 1. Chapter 12.

Verse 1. Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we have just mentioned some of them. Okay. Moses, Abraham, Noah, Abel, and all the rest.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us. In other words, the author is telling us, listen, guys, it's worth. It's worth giving your life and allowing God to do what he wants to do in your life.

Look at these witnesses. Look at the end of their life. Look at how they run their race to perfection.

Lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Here's all the examples, guys. Here are the examples.

Hebrews chapter 11. All the examples. All witnesses of faith.

Men of faith that have stood in the midst of tests, stood in the midst of persecution. They have stood in the midst of trials. They have been corrected by God.

They were chastened by God. But they stood and they finished the race. Nothing was easy for them.

Nothing was easy for them. You say, but brother, we are living under the new covenant. Oh yeah, I understand that.

I understand that. But Jesus has done everything for us. Why should we, you know, why should we live like these guys? No, no.

Why should we? We are blessed. We have been delivered from the curse and this and that. We can have that language.

We can talk that language. But why do you also don't listen to what Jesus has said about the Christian life? There are times for blessing. There are times to stand deep down in a hole where everything is dark around you.

But then you shall see the deliverance of our God. You shall see the deliverance of our God. Yes, you have not lost the battle at the time of this trial and test.

No, the battle is not lost because Jesus is on the throne and he will come and deliver us from all evil. Okay. Thusfore, you have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

In other words, you have not done enough to have an attitude of heart where you are sick and tired of sin. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. You have let go of yourself, of your life.

Yeah, you've let go. You are submitting your life to the flesh. And here the author says, you know, he wants to express himself in a way that there is something that is needed to happen.

He says you have not yet resisted to bloodshed. What does that mean? Who has shed his blood? Who is the one who shed his blood for the sin of mankind and humanity? With what attitude did he go to the cross? What did he suffer? How much pain did he carry? How much suffering did he carry? Now here we're talking about identifying our lives with the sufferings of Christ, being also ready to partake to his sufferings. In other words, we're talking about the pain and the suffering that we have just shared about Moses, Abel, Abraham, the apostle Paul, Timothy, those who wrote the book of Corinthians.

Hey, that's what we're talking here. He says you have not identified yourself with the attitude that Jesus had when he shed his blood. Now the author is not asking us to go on the cross and shed our blood.

Do you understand? We're talking a spiritual language here. Can you understand that? We're talking a spiritual language. The apostle Paul says, have the same attitude that was in Christ Jesus.

Amen or not? Okay, I can tell you also what the apostle Peter says. 1 Peter chapter 4. You can't run away from it. You cannot.

1 Peter chapter 4. Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind or the same attitude. For he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased with sin. Oh, glory to God, you have not, you didn't catch that one.

Did you? Did you catch that one? You're great. You're great, guys. I say it again for those who didn't catch it.

I see some of them and don't catch it. Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, I told you that earlier on. Here is the proof.

Okay? Arm yourself, arm yourself with the same mind or with the same attitude. How? Because he who suffered in the flesh, he has ceased from sin. Can you see a work of sanctification? Can you see a work of sanctification? What does the word sanctification mean? It means that your life becomes more and more like Jesus.

You are being sanctified, purified, changed to the image of Christ more and more. How does that happen? Can you see? If you are more and more sanctified, that means you are more and more ceasing with sin. Correct? Am I correct? Some of you are looking at me as if I'm... Am I clear? Is it clear? Is it clear? And how does it happen? How does that happen? How does that happen? What did you read? What did you read? Come on, guys.

What did you read? How does it happen? See? Where do you end up? Where do you end up? Swimming on the beach? No, you end up at the cross. That's where you end up. You end up at the cross.

That's where you end up, at the cross. You can't run away. Everything is there.

Everything is right there, black on white, but you need to catch the spirit of the gospel. You need to catch the heart of Jesus. That's the way.

That's the gate that is narrow. That's the way that is difficult. Oh, yes.

It's not without crying. It's not without shedding tears. Oh, I'm a Christian, brother.

I'm a Christian, you know. I'm the king's kid. Why should I shed tears? Jesus had done everything for me.

I'm free. Glory to God. Good on you.

Oh, yeah. Bless me. Give me.

Hallelujah. Jesus is good. Oh, Jesus loves me so much.

We can go on and on, but there are also some other things to look at. There are times to rejoice. There are times to mourn.

Abraham, by faith, I'm sure he cried. Not emotionally, but he cried. I tell you, he must have suffered.

But can you see where we are going? Can you see where we are reaching? That's not just, you know, Jesus didn't just put that in the life of a Christian just for us to endure. Now, let's look at Hebrews chapter 12, verse 5. We've read verse 4. Now, we read verse 5. Okay. Hebrews chapter 12, verse 5. Okay.

Time is running. Okay. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons.

Now, he's talking about what happens to real sons in the house. My son do not despise the chastening of the Lord or the correction of the Lord. Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by him.

For whom the Lord loves, he chastens and scourges every son whom he receives. If you endure chastening, God deal with you as with sons. It's only when you endure chastening that God considers you as a son.

If you do not want to receive the correction of God, you are an illegitimate person in the house of God. It's very simple. Let's look.

For what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. In other words, if you refuse the chastening of the Lord, you are not a son. You are an illegitimate person.

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be subjected to the father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them. But he, but he God, he God, for our prophet, that we may be partakers of his holiness.

So that we may be partakers of his holiness. So that we may become spiritual people. You can't get away without being chastened.

You cannot get away without correction. Now, no chastening seems to be joyful for the present. If it's not joyful, it's painful.

Either or. For the present, the moment, the time you are being chastened, the time you are being corrected, it hurts. It humbles you.

It breaks you. Breaks your pride. Breaks everything in you that you want to be, to be yourself.

Nevertheless, afterwards, afterwards, you see, there's a time where it's painful. There's a time where there is suffering. There's a time of brokenness.

There's a time of identification. But then, afterwards, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. What does that mean? What does that mean? Training is not a one-off thing.

You know, if you go and train for your muscles, and if you go and train, do you go once, and then you say, I'm training? I've trained. Do you go at the gym and you say, you know, you gave yourself, and you go for one hour and you come back and say, I'm training. And you never go again.

No, you're not training. You've made a joke of yourself. You've made a fool of yourself.

The Bible says that it yields fruit, peaceful fruit, peaceful fruit of righteousness to those, to those that are trained in it. In other words, it's your life. If you decide that you are going to be corrected once in a while, you are in trouble.

Righteousness. Righteousness. What righteousness? What righteousness? The righteousness of the law.

Can you understand? Romans chapter 8 verse 3, read it for yourself, that we may partake to the righteousness of the law. Amen. What does that mean? A righteous life.

Okay. Oh, Lord, help us. I tell you, we need to change.

The church needs to change its attitude and not try to find a detour. No, you cannot. You must face reality, must face it like it is, like God has ordained for us to become mature Christians, spiritual people.

Amen. God bless you all. Just stand up with me.

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