

Clear Expectations And Loving Affection

Promise: God's discipline is a part of his great love for us

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Lamentations 3:22-33; Ps 30; 2 Cor 8:1-9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43

(Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 6/27/21)

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. – v. 22-23

Lead In – I know a couple who choose our First Lesson and the words I just read to you as their featured text for their wedding service. When Tom and Naomi Rislow shared with me that they had chosen this reading for one of their lessons, I smiled. How many of you know that I love to preach on Old Testament texts? And this one from Jeremiah's prophetic voice in the Book of Lamentations is one of the great texts. You know what, I think I will preach on this again this morning...

I. Context: What Has Just Been Described

- A. Great suffering at the hands of invading Babylonians
- B. For idolatry and disobedience – punishment!...
- C. Distinguishing between remedial and ultimate...

II. The Lord Disciplines Whom He Loves

- A. In the prevention of our self-destruction...
- B. The problem of hating God's justice...
- C. Only with a loving God can we truly love God...

III. Fascination With Article On Most Effective Parenting

- A. Authoritative wins over authoritarian & permissive...
- B. Why tough love is true love...
- C. How this looks with *law* and *gospel* tension...

Parting Shot – Our tradition understands the full counsel of God's Word to chiefly speak to us in two ways. We say it is either speaking *law* or *gospel*. Or we could substitute the words *demand* or *promise*. What matters is that both words, not to be confused with each other, are likewise both needed to be heard. Nothing but promise without demand might make us feel good, but... And only demand, leaves us accused, condemned, and with an angry unloving God, who is impossible to love in return. But alas... *the steadfast love of God never ceases...*

La 1:1 How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.

La 1:3 Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

La 1:5 Her foes have become the head; her enemies prosper, because the Lord has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

Lamentations 3:22-33 ESV

Great Is Your Faithfulness

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." ²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. ²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ²⁷It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. ²⁸Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him; ²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust— there may yet be hope; ³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults. ³¹For the Lord will not cast off forever, ³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; ³³for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.

Remedial Punishment vs Ultimate Judgment: The discipline of punishment in this temporal age can hopefully bring about the sobriety and correction necessary to avoid the final fate of our sinful rebellion.

La 3:21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

La 3:31-33 For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.

He 12:5-7 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Mt 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Four Parenting Styles: 1) *Authoritative* – high expectations // abundance of loving affection and support. 2) *Authoritarian* – high expectation // lack of affection and support. 3) *Permissive* – few boundaries and standards // lot of affection and empathy. 4) *Neglectful* – no clear expectations // no loving affection or support.

Love: Desiring and working for the best interests of others.

*Keeping the Faith, by Christian Smith", First Things May 2021, Sociologist at Notre Dame

Clear Expectations And Loving Affection

Promise: God's discipline is a part of his great love for us

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Lamentations 3:22-33; Ps 30; 2 Cor 8:1-9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43

(Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, 6/27/21)

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. – v. 22-23

Lead In – I know a couple who choose our First Lesson and the words I just read to you as their featured text for their wedding service. When Tom and Naomi Rislow shared with me that they had chosen this reading for one of their lessons, I smiled. How many of you know that I love to preach on Old Testament texts? And this one from Jeremiah's prophetic voice in the Book of Lamentations is one of the great texts. You know what, I think I will preach on this again this morning...

I. Context: What Has Just Been Described

- A. Great suffering at the hands of invading Babylonians
- B. For idolatry and disobedience – punishment!...
- C. Distinguishing between remedial and ultimate...

II. The Lord Disciplines Whom He Loves

- A. In the prevention of our self-destruction...
- B. The problem of hating God's justice...
- C. Only with a loving God can we truly love God...

III. Fascination With Article On Most Effective Parenting

- A. Authoritative wins over authoritarian & permissive...
- B. Why tough love is true love...
- C. How this looks with *law* and *gospel* tension...

Parting Shot – Our tradition understands the full counsel of God's Word to chiefly speak to us in two ways. We say it is either speaking *law* or *gospel*. Or we could substitute the words *demand* or *promise*. What matters is that both words, not to be confused with each other, are likewise both needed to be heard. Nothing but promise without demand might make us feel good, but... And only demand, leaves us accused, condemned, and with an angry unloving God, who is impossible to love in return. But alas... *the steadfast love of God never ceases...*

La 1:1 How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.

La 1:3 Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

La 1:5 Her foes have become the head; her enemies prosper, because the Lord has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

*Keeping the Faith, by Christian Smith", First Things May 2021, Sociologist at Notre Dame

Lamentations 3:22-33 ESV

Great Is Your Faithfulness

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." ²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. ²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ²⁷It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. ²⁸Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him; ²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust— there may yet be hope; ³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults. ³¹For the Lord will not cast off forever, ³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; ³³for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.

Remedial Punishment vs Ultimate Judgment: The discipline of punishment in this temporal age can hopefully bring about the sobriety and correction necessary to avoid the final fate of our sinful rebellion.

La 3:21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

La 3:31-33 For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.

He 12:5-7 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

Mt 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Four Parenting Styles: 1) *Authoritative* – high expectations // abundance of loving affection and support. 2) *Authoritarian* – high expectation // lack of affection and support. 3) *Permissive* – few boundaries and standards // lot of affection and empathy. 4) *Neglectful* – no clear expectations // no loving affection or support.

Love: Desiring and working for the best interests of others.

*Keeping the Faith, by Christian Smith", First Things May 2021, Sociologist at Notre Dame

Psalm 30

¹I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have **lifted** me up*
and have not let my enemies
triumph over me.

²O Lord my God, I cried **out** to you,*
and you restored **me** to health.

³You have brought me up, O Lord,
from the dead;*
you restored my life
as I was going down **to** the grave.

⁴Sing to the Lord, you **servants** of
his;*
give thanks for the remembrance
of his holiness.

⁵For his wrath endures
but the twinkling **of** an eye,*
his favor **for** a lifetime.

⁶Weeping may **spend** the night,*
but joy comes **in** the morning.

⁷While I felt secure, I said,
“I shall never **be** disturbed.*
You, Lord, with your favor,
made me as strong **as** the moun-
tains.”

⁸Then you **hid** your face,*
and I was **filled** with fear.

⁹I cried to **you**, O Lord;*
I pleaded with **the** Lord, saying,

¹⁰“What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down **to** the pit?*

Will the dust praise you
or **declare** your faithfulness?

¹¹Hear, O Lord,
and have mercy upon me;*
O Lord, **be** my helper.”

¹²You have turned my wailing
into dancing;*
you have put off my sackcloth
and clothed **me** with joy.

¹³Therefore my heart sings to you
without ceasing;*
O Lord my God,
I will give you **thanks** forever.

Psalm 30

¹I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have **lifted** me up*
and have not let my enemies
triumph over me.

²O Lord my God, I cried **out** to you,*
and you restored **me** to health.

³You have brought me up, O Lord,
from the dead;*
you restored my life
as I was going down **to** the grave.

⁴Sing to the Lord, you **servants** of
his;*
give thanks for the remembrance
of his holiness.

⁵For his wrath endures
but the twinkling **of** an eye,*
his favor **for** a lifetime.

⁶Weeping may **spend** the night,*
but joy comes **in** the morning.

⁷While I felt secure, I said,
“I shall never **be** disturbed.*
You, Lord, with your favor,
made me as strong **as** the moun-
tains.”

⁸Then you **hid** your face,*
and I was **filled** with fear.

⁹I cried to **you**, O Lord;*
I pleaded with **the** Lord, saying,

¹⁰“What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down **to** the pit?*

Will the dust praise you
or **declare** your faithfulness?