

## THE REDEPTIVE HEART OF GOD (II)

### KEY TEXT

**Psalm 103:1-6 (NKJV)- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.**

### ***Illustration of God's Redemptive Love***

**An old story is told of a husband and his wife.**

**The husband loves his wife, but the relationship has been broken.**

**She cheated on him .....she played the harlot....she gave herself to other men.**

**The husband goes to find her, to take her back to be his wife.**

**The husband searches for her.**

**He shows up one day to the slave auction that is going on in the center of the town.**

The strong men have already been bought.

The young maidens have already been bought.

But at the end of the day, the last one to stand on the auction block is an old woman.

Her hair is matted.....her face bears the marks of hard living.

But suddenly the husband recognizes her.....IT IS HIS WIFE!

He probably could have paid a much lower price for her, but the husband pays the **FULL PRICE TO REDEEM HER OUT OF SLAVERY.**

Yes.... this is the story of Hosea and Gomer from the old book of the Bible in **Hosea 3:1-5.**

Isn't that just like the **REDEEMING LOVE OF GOD?**

**Lessons:**

We were all like Gomer.

We were far from God.

We were playing the harlot with idols.

We were slaves to sin.

But Jesus came looking for us.

He paid the price of His own blood to secure our **REDEMPTION**.

*“Oh, the overwhelming, never ending, reckless love of God!”*

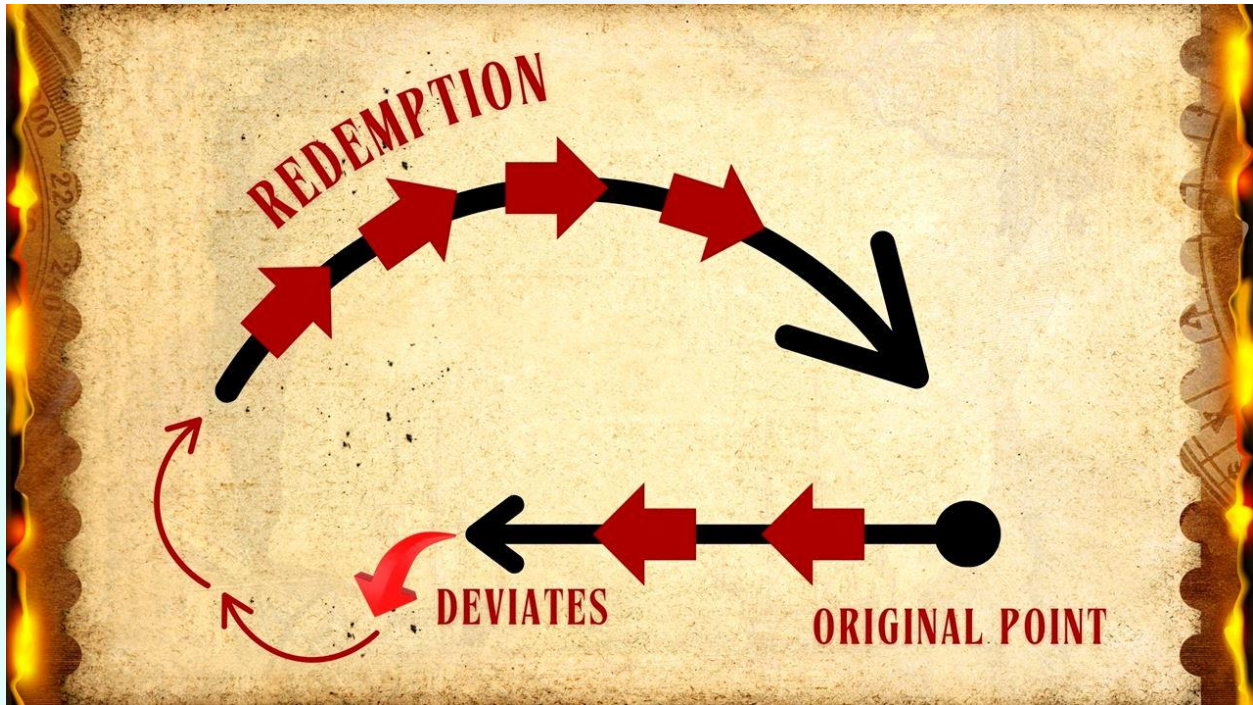
Nothing can separate us from the love of God (**Romans 8:38-39**).

We are doing a 3-part series called “The Redemptive Heart of God”. Last Sunday, under Part 1, I shared that God’s heart is redemptive in nature. God never quits on what He starts. He loves and saves to the uttermost no matter what the cost. We are called to be like Him, and hence our approach to life situation and to the problems we face must be **REDEMPITIVE** as well.

Last Sunday, I also gave you the definition of **REDEMPTION**:

**WHEN SOMETHING DEVIATES FROM ITS ORIGINAL PLAN AND DESIGN, AND IS RECOVERED AND RESTORED, WE CALL IT REDEMPTION.**





It is important for us to understand God's redemptive heart, and how He goes about His redemptive work and the process involved, so that we can learn to cooperate with God in seeing His redemptive heart bring everything back to Himself.

This morning, I would like to continue on **THE REDEEMPTIVE HEART OF GOD (II) –THE NATURE OF GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE WORK.**

The outline for the part 2 of my sermon will be as follows:

- Explanation of the Key Text
- Who our Redeemer is
- How our Redeemer goes about with His redemptive work (The nature of God's redemptive work)
- The Gospel of Grace

## (I) EXPLANATION OF OUR KEY TEXT

**Psalm 103:1-6 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.**

**Our Key text encourages a personal and universal celebration of God's blessings, namely, **HIS REDEEMING LOVE.****

**His redeeming love comes upon the believers in the form of:**

- Forgiveness
- Healing
- Deliverance/redemption
- Love
- Mercy
- Provision for His people

**This Psalms then prompts individual Christian to bless the Lord and remember His goodness, reminding the believers of their own experience of these blessings and encouraging a renewed sense of **GRATITUDE AND HOPE.****



I remember last Sunday I highlighted to you one of the root causes of us not being able to trust in the redemptive power of God is because we have forgotten where we have come from. So, today's key text is an advocate to us to remain grateful so we can continue to hope and trust in the redemption of God in any hardship that we are undergoing now. We must **"forget not all His benefits."**

**(II) WHO OUR REDEEMER IS**

Do you know who your Redeemer is?

Here are a few declarations we can make together on who our Redeemer is. Let's declare these together:

**My Redeemer lives (Job 19:25).**

**My Redeemer is the LORD, the King of Israel, the First and the Last (Isaiah 44:6).**

**My Redeemer is the God of the whole earth (Isaiah 54:5).**

**My Redeemer has the whole world in His hands (Isaiah 44:24).**

**My Redeemer is strong; The LORD of hosts is His name. (Jeremiah 50:34).**

**My Redeemer is my Father, the Eternal One (Isaiah 63:16).**

My Redeemer is the Most High God and my Rock (Psalm 78:35).

My Redeemer displays His mercy and everlasting kindness towards me (Isaiah 54:8).

My Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel and He will help me (Isaiah 41:14).

My Redeemer is mighty, He will plead my case (Proverbs 23:11, Jeremiah 50:34).

My Redeemer teaches me to succeed and leads me in the path I should go (Isaiah 48:17).

My Redeemer turns things around in my favor and causes the unexpected to happen (Isaiah 49:26; Isaiah 60:16).

### (III) THE NATURE OF GOD'S REDEPTIVE WORK

How does God go about His redemptive work?

*#1 -God's Redemptive Work is Motivated by a Constant, Unyielding Love that Knows No Limits*

During several seasons of Israel (and Judah) journey they wander away from God, and God raises up prophets to warn them, correct them and bring them back to God. Yet in all of these we see the redemptive work of God being carried out with **utmost love for His people**. We consider two passages:

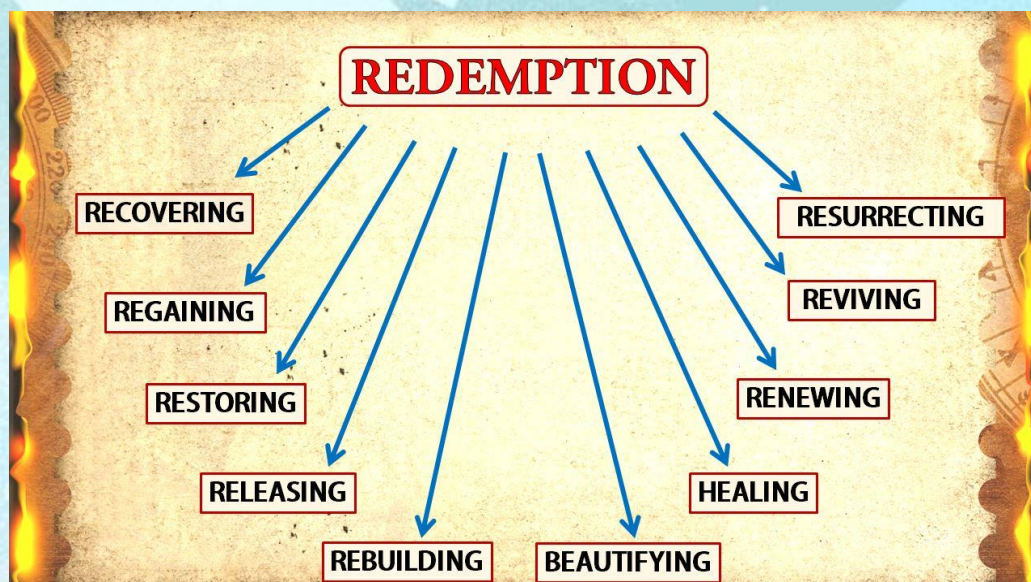


Jeremiah 31:1-4 (NKJV)- 1 "At the same time," says the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people." 2 Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness Israel, when I went to give him rest." 3 The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. 4 Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, And shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice.

This passage highlights God's enduring love for Israel, assuring them of **RESTORATION** and **REBUILDING**. God declares that His love is **EVERLASTING** and that He has drawn Israel with His lovingkindness. He promises to **REBUILD** Israel and **RETURN** them to their land, implying a joyful **RESTORATION**.

Returning to their land = Returning to where they originally belong = returning to their original design – definition of redemption.

Redemption has many subsets:





Hosea 14:1-7 (NKJV) - 1 O Israel, return to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity; 2 Take words with you, And return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips. 3 Assyria shall not save us, We will not ride on horses, Nor will we say anymore to the work of our hands, 'You are our gods.' For in You the fatherless finds mercy." 4 "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him. 5 I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, And lengthen his roots like Lebanon. 6 His branches shall spread; His beauty shall be like an olive tree, And his fragrance like Lebanon. 7 Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; They shall be revived like grain, And grow like a vine. Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

In this passage of Hosea, the call is for Israel to repent and return to God. It promises **FORGIVENESS, RESTORATION AND BLESSING** for those who turn away from idolatry and foreign alliances, embracing God's grace and mercy. God's promise is like refreshing dew that will make Israel flourish, growing like a lily and taking root like cedar tree.

The great plan of redemption is one that is motivated by God's **UNYIELDING LOVE**.

**Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**



**Let's therefore learn to be:**

## **SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE FOR US**

**He loves us no matter how much we have messed up and how bad things may have become.**

**E.g.** Pastor Toh Nee and I were raised in a very legalistic church where there was no forgiving grace for any mistake committed. For many years, we had to work very hard to be loved and recognized. It was a very performance-based church. And when one sin or mistake was committed, the blacklisting, the “Rambo”, the confrontation, the distrust and the persecution went unending. Sadly, we duplicated such faulty DNA in the first phase of our ministry till 2012. I am not



saying we are very gracious now but we don't want to "condemn" any one of us here who have sinned or made a mistake eternally. In many of the recent disciplines executed on some sinning members, I always ensure the goal of discipline or confrontation is **RESTORATION** and not condemnation. You will only see me coming hard on you when you continue to be unrepentful, lying or rebellious. Other than that – you will see me giving you another chance. Why? Because I wasn't given any chance. Pastor Toh Nee and I flew back to Singapore to reconcile with our offended bosses. Instead of giving us a chance to talk and reconcile, they sent us back to the Philippines but without first thundering to us these **death words** – "You think we are against you? We are not. We have forgiven you. What to forgive? We have forgiven. And if both of you are suffering now, it is not because of us not forgiving you. It is God that is against you, not us." For that one second, I was confused. This wasn't the God I was relating and communing with all these while. She painted God as one who had stopped loving us because of the mess we had gotten into by getting my sister to buy this land for the church.

That is not our God.

**HE LOVES US NOT MATTER HOW MUCH WE  
HAVE MESSED UP AND HOW BAD THINGS  
MAY HAVE BECOME.**

# **GOD'S LOVE AND CARE FOR YOU IS SECURE BECAUSE IT DOES NOT DEPEND ON YOUR FAITHFULNESS BUT ON HIS.**

**Questions:** Have you messed up badly? What are the suggestions in your mind by the devil? Renounce that and stand secure in the love of God for you.

## ***#2 - God's Redemptive Work is Supernatural, But Includes Our Cooperation***

God reaches out to redeem us, but we must **RESPOND** and **COOPERATE** with Him in receiving His redemptive work in our lives.

How do we cooperate with Him?

**REPENTANCE:** God's redemptive work seeks repentance because of His goodness





**Romans 2:4 - Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**

**You repent because it is the goodness of the Lord that leads you into repentance. Not because of your own humility or decision. Repentance is a gift of God.**

**FAITH:** We must have faith in what He can do for our lives to redeem us.



**Psalms 27:13 - I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.**

The Psalmist found himself in a horrible pit. Yet he looked to the Lord with **FAITH**.

## **PATIENCE**

**Psalm 40:1-3 (NKJV) - 1 I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. 2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. 3 He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.**



**Psalm 40:1-3 (TPT) – I waited and waited and waited some more, patiently, knowing God would come through me. Then, at last, he bent down and listened to my cry. He stooped down to lift me out of danger from the desolate pit I was in, out of the muddy mess I had fallen into.**



This passage encourages embracing **PATIENCE** during seasons of waiting, focusing on trusting **GOD'S TIMING** and recognizing the work while we wait. It highlights that patience is a **fruit of the Spirit**, developed through faith and reliance on God. Patience is not merely an inactive state, but **AN ACTIVE TRUST IN GOD'S PLAN, EVEN WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.**

**Illustration:** A funny story is told of a lonely guy who decided that life would be more fun if he had a pet. So, he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he decided on a centipede, which came in a little white box to use as its house.



He took the centipede home, found a good location for the box, and then decided he would start off by taking his new pet to a restaurant to have dinner. So, he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go out with me to have dinner?" But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked him again, "How about going out for a meal with me?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So, he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. He decided to ask him one more time, this time putting his face against the centipede's house and shouting, "Hey in there! Would you like to go with me to have dinner?" A little voice came out of the box from the centipede: "Patience man! I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"

Patience is something many of us have trouble with. Patience teaches us to wait, to remember that **God is still in charge**. Patience reminds us that **God isn't finished yet**. We may not understand all there is to know. But where do we get this quality from? Patience is a hard thing to create. It is virtually impossible to make yourself be patience. We can't produce patience on our own.

But as we mature in our Christian faith, as we learn to trust more and more that God really is in charge of this world and our lives, then **patience is the fruit that grows as a natural result of our relationship with God**. Remember, patience is a



fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). It is a **fruit that God will grow**. And **He grows that fruit as we grow in Him**. As we learn to trust him, as we learn to rely upon him, as we learn that.

The most important step we can take to develop patience is to **give God control of our life**. Think of it this way: Every time you and I lose our patience, we are saying in effect, I'm in control and God's not. We are taking God out of the driver's seat and putting ourselves in it.

### *#3 - God's Redemptive Work Includes Discipline and In Some Cases Judgment, When Necessary*

God disciplines those whom He loves. His discipline is loving correction, intended for our well-being and not for our destruction. It comes from a redemptive heart, seeking to redeem us from our own folly.

The **"judgment"** here for Christian is different from that for an unbeliever. When we Christians are **"judged by the Lord, we are DISCIPLINED so that we may not be condemned along with the world"** (1 Cor 11:32). It is a redemptive judgment. Not so for the unbelievers, when God judges them, it is hell.

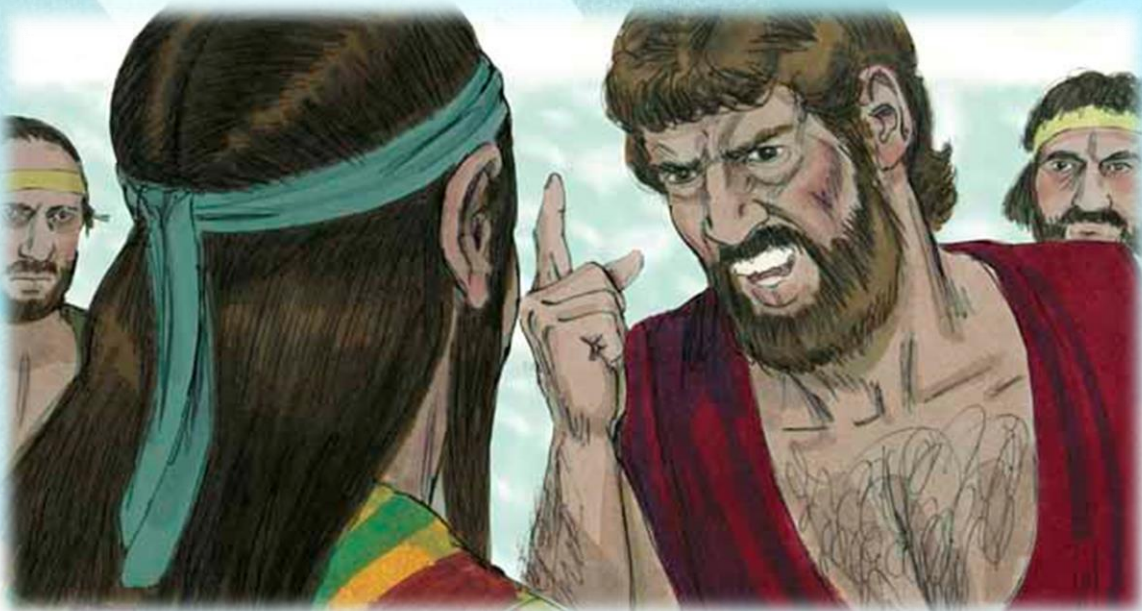
**Hebrews 12:5-11 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM; 6 FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE**

RECEIVES." 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

God corrects us through His Word, through the work of His Spirit, through people around us, sometimes through situations He orchestrates, for our good.

Forms of God's discipline:

### *ROUGH HANDLING*





Psalm 66:6-12 – He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot – come, let us rejoice in him. He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations – let not the rebellious rise up against him. Praise our God, all people, let the sound of his praise be heard; he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; but you brought us to a place of abundance.

In **Psalm 66:6-12**, the Psalmist praises God for letting so many **bad things** happen to him and the people of God. God is seen as present in every one of the sufferings that are listed in these verses. He **“preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping”** in the midst of affliction (**verse 9**). He is the one behind the prison, the burdens, the oppression, all summed up as going **“through the fire and water.”** But God allows them in order to refine us into something precious, great and beautiful (**verse 10**). Just as Joseph seemed to be **HANDLING HIS BROTHERS ROUGHLY** – but only as a way of breaking the ice over their hearts and saving them (**Genesis 42**) – so **GOD’S SEEMING ROUGH HANDLING IS ALWAYS A GRACE**. In His infinite love and wisdom, God has allowed you to be **ROUGH HANDLED BY LIFE OR PEOPLE** because it is **PROFITABLE FOR YOU**.

## BROKEN BONES



After being rebuked by Nathan for his sin of adultery and murder, David wrote **Psalm 51** as his penitent prayer to God.

**Psalm 51:8 (ESV)- Let the bones you have broken rejoice.**

The image of a broken bones in this psalm is not necessarily literal. It rather symbolizes a person's **emotional, spiritual, or even physical brokenness**, or a time of **intense pain and suffering**. So, **Psalm 51:8** is a plea for a restoration and renewal, particularly after a period of pain and suffering, whether physical or spiritual. The phrase signifies a desire for joy and wholeness to return after a time of brokenness.

God's care comes in many forms.

**HE CARES ENOUGH TO BREAK YOUR BONES IN ORDER TO RECAPTURE YOUR HEART.**



**Poem:**

I wish your care was always easy,  
Predictable, safe —  
A cool drink  
A soft pillow —  
But you are too wise,  
Too loving  
Too committed to your work of  
Transforming grace  
So your gracious care comes to me  
In uncomfortable forms:  
The **REDEEMING CARE** of  
Disappointments  
The unexpected trial,  
Suffering, loss,  
These things don't tell me you're cold hearted,  
Absent,  
Uninvolved,  
No, each is a sign of  
Zealous grace,  
**REDEEMING LOVE.**  
I struggle to grasp how much you care,  
So I struggle to rest in that  
Care  
You care enough to give me what I  
**NEED,**  
Not what I want.  
You care enough to **BREAK MY BONES**  
In order

## TO RECAPTURE MY HEART

Yes, many times, God not only allows life or people to rough handle us, but many times, He allows our bones to be broken so that we can return to Him.

Nobody likes his bones to be broken. But this is a very necessary loving disciplinary act, which is redemptive (it leads to restoration and a pure heart).

**Illustration:** *Shepherd breaking the lamb's leg*



“A shepherd will break a sheep’s leg if it wanders off. This may be legitimately or metaphorically speaking. Either way, it sounds cruel. But it is for the best interest of the sheep. The shepherd will break its leg and then begin the process of restoring it back to full strength. In that process, the sheep is learning to trust the shepherd as it cares for it. Then, when fully restored, the sheep will remain close to the shepherd, instead of wandering off again.



## **DETOURS**



**A detour is an unplanned, often unexpected, shift in the route we were taking to get where we were trying to go.**

**Whether we are following our own mental map or the one in our phone, sometimes we run into a detour – some closed end that requires us to make a U-turn or go down a path we had not previously expected.**

**Few of us like to be stalled for any reason, even if it is just someone cutting us in traffic and forcing us to slow down. But detours are necessary if any improvement is going to be made on the paths we travel or if any wreck is going to be cleaned up or hazard avoided.**

Detours are designed for our own good, regardless of how we view or feel about them.

They are a good thing that often feels **bad**.

**Divinely designed detours in our lives are also POSITIVE INTERRUPTIONS designed to divert us to a better path so that we might have the opportunity to reach our destination.**

**E.g. Joseph (Gen 37)**-At a very young age, God gave him a dream of a glorious destiny where all his family members would bow down to him. This inflated him to be a proud and arrogant youth. Furthermore, he was the favorite of his dad, who loved to squeal on his misbehaving brothers. God could have promoted him to the dream of his destiny quickly. But God needed to purify and humble this arrogance in his heart and to mold him to be a better character to fit into the glorious dream God had given him. So, God disciplined him by sending him on a long detour. At the age of 17, he was thrown into the pit. Since then his life is detoured again and again till 30 years old.

**13 years of detour.**

**E.g.** A man went to his pastor for his counseling. He said to his pastor, "Pastor, I feel as if my detour has met another detour and they got married and had a baby detour." In other words, he felt as he were running into detour after detour and that



the detours merely kept replicating and multiplying rather than taking him anywhere meaningful.

It is easy to feel that way when God is taking you to your destiny. This is because before you can ever get to where God wants you to be, He has to do some **TWISTS AND TURNS**. In life, as it is often on the road, detours exist because **CONSTRUCTION IS TAKING PLACE**. When you are on a highway and there is a detour, it is usually because workers are trying to fix, build, correct or improve something.

**SIMILARLY, GOD WILL TAKE US ON A DETOUR BECAUSE HE IS CONSTRUCTING SOMETHING IN OUR LIVES AS WELL.**



Granted, detours are anything but convenient. They take you out of the way. They are longer than you originally had planned to travel. But they are **NECESSARY**.

**GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN YOUR DEVELOPMENT THAN YOUR ARRIVAL.**

He cares more for your CHARACTER than you COMFORT, more for your PURITY than your PRODUCTIVITY.

That is how He disciplined Joseph and that is how He disciplines you and me too. It is part of his **REDEEMING LOVE**.

**Questions:** How is God disciplining you now? Through rough handling, broken bones or detours?

Even His divine disciplinary dealings are expressed with mercy.

**Isaiah 54:8 With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer.**

***#4 - God's Redemptive Work Not Only Restores Us to Our Former State, But Elevates Us to a Realm Far Greater Than the Beginning.***

**JOSEPH**



Think about Joseph. What he had after going through what he did, was so wonderful that Joseph expressed this in the names he gave to his sons:

**Genesis 41:51,52** 51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house." 52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

***Manasseh*** - From hurts to forgiveness and reconciliation

***Ephraim*** - From prisoner to double fruitfulness



## ***JOB***

Think about what God did for Job. His short time of trial (It is not clear in the Bible how long Job suffered, but it may have been at least a period of months and may have been as long as one year according to some Jewish traditions.) was nothing compared to the 140 years of **double blessing** he enjoyed.

**Job 42:10 - And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.**

**Job 42:12 - Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.**

**Job 42:16 - After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.**

**Job 42:17 -So Job died, old and full of days.**

## ***THE PRODIGAL SON***

What the father did for the prodigal son when he returned home was something he had never done before for either of his sons. We infer this from the way the older son reacted in **Luke 15:29.**





## ***THE GREAT PLAN OF REDEMPTION***

We are not only brought into God's family, but made **heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ**, something the first man Adam did not experience.

### **(IV) THE GOSPEL OF GRACE**

None of us can escape the redemptive works of God through discipline. All of us sooner or later will be rough handled by life or people; broken by life or people and being detoured by the twist and turns in life.

It is hard to remain calm while all these redemptive works of God are ongoing in our life. It is hard to be disciplined by God because while we are in it, it seems as if God is “angry” with us.

But the good news I want to share with you today is this:

**CHRIST’S SACRIFICE SATISFIED THE FATHER’S ANGER SO THAT, AS HIS CHILD, YOU WILL RECEIVE HIS DISCIPLINE BUT NEED NOT FEAR HIS WRATH.**



It is the bottom line of your acceptance with God. It is the foundational reason why **GRACE** is your only hope.

**JESUS FULLY AND COMPLETELY SATISFIED THE FATHER'S ANGER SO THAT YOU AND I WILL NEVER EVER AGAIN FACE THE PENALTY FOR OUR SIN.**

You do not have to live in fear of God's anger. **On your very worst, most rebellious and most faithless day, you can run into the holy presence of your Heavenly Father and He will not turn you away.** Your acceptance has not been, nor will it ever be, based on your **PERFORMANCE**. You have not been welcomed into an eternal relationship with God because you have kept the law, but because Jesus did. If you obey God for a thousand years, you will not have earned more of His acceptance than you were granted the very first moment you believed. Here's how radical the **gospel of grace** really is – you do not have to be something before God because Jesus accomplished everything on your behalf.

Since you are God's child and He loves you dearly, He disciplines you. But in the face of His loving discipline, a very important distinction needs to be made. His discipline is **NOT PUNISHMENT FOR YOUR SIN**, because all of your punishment has been borne by your Savior, Jesus. Rather than being **PUNITIVE**, His father discipline is **TRANSFORMATIVE**. It is designed to change your heart. It is one of the tools God uses to propel and ultimately to complete **His agenda of grace**. His discipline is not teaching you what to do to earn your place as



one of His children; His careful, loving discipline actually proves that you are **one of His children (Hebrews 12:7-11)**.

So, God's discipline is an **INSTRUMENT OF HIS GRACE**. It is a continuation of His redemptive work of personal heart-and-life transformation.

**GOD'S DISCIPLINE IS NOT HIM TURNING HIS ANGRY BACK ON US.**

**IT IS GOD TURNING HIS FACE OF GRACE TOWARDS US ONCE AGAIN AND HE WILL CONTINUE TO DO THIS UNTIL HIS GRACE HAS FINISHED ITS WORK.**

**TILL HE COMES, WE ARE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION.**

So, for now we should repent, have faith in His redemptive power and be patient for the process of redemption to go through.

Now we know that the discipline of God is not punitive but transformative, not fatal but redemptive, we can now see clearer the redeeming love of God which should furnish us more than 10,000 reasons to bless our God. God is redeeming our life – bringing us back to His original design and better still, elevating us to a realm far greater than the beginning, just like Jesus was exalted to sit at the right hand of His Father, after He went through the cross, grave, hell and resurrection.

**Romans 8:17- And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him that we may also be GLORIFIED WITH HIM.**

**What is it that you want God to redeem in your life?**

**God's redemptive work is motivated by a constant, unyielding love that knows no limits Be assured of His love for you. He loves you still even in your mess.**

**God's redemptive work is supernatural, but includes our cooperation. Cooperate with God to see His power release, restore, heal by repenting, believing and waiting with patience.**

**God's redemptive work includes discipline and in some cases judgment, when necessary. If there are things you need to correct, do so. Yield to God's correction. Don't resist it. Fear not his discipline. It is not fatal or punitive but transformative.**

**God's redemptive work not only restores us to our former state, but elevates us to a realm far greater than the beginning. Expect greater glory.**

**End**

**Preached at Etab 1<sup>st</sup> English service on 8 June 2025**