

Introduction:

- The Cross
 - I trust you are watching with your family we are going to Start with preschool video, for the little people
 - last week: The Cross from God's perspective. What was God after? His glory in us!
- The Cross: The Punishment That Brought Me Peace
 - No one likes being punished or being discipline.
- *"Oh, what a sinful nation they are— loaded down with a burden of guilt. They are evil people, corrupt children who have rejected the Lord. They have despised the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him. Why do you continue to invite punishment? Must you rebel forever? Your head is injured, and your heart is sick. You are battered from head to foot— covered with bruises, welts, and infected wounds – without any soothing ointments or bandages."* (Isaiah 1:4-6, NLT)
- *the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.* Is 53:5NIV

I. Punishment Is Necessary, Why?

- A. Punishment has to do with consequences. Let's ask ourselves, "What is a consequence?" Oh, the topic is the cross: the punishment that brought me peace. Consequence defined:
1. A consequence is a conclusion reached through logic. So punishment as a consequence is to teach us or encourage us to make right decisions. Ie. I grew up in home where we learned to handle guns at a young age. A big portion of that was gun safety. Finger off the trigger, never point it at anyone, check if it is loaded. AND at the age of this story my education finished with: "If you see or find a gun do not touch it tell an adult." We found a loaded rifle at an aunts house and I unloaded it. In the process I forgot... "Don't touch it, tell someone." Just as the last round came out of the magazine I saw the face of my mom...and I don't remember much after that except mom's intense voice and excruciating pain burning on my backside. The punishment was the consequence of a failure to logically reach a right choice. Never happened again. *"A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness, but physical discipline will drive it far away."* (Proverbs 22:15, NLT) Heb. - Musar The punishment lead me to a right sequence of thought to make upcoming choices.
 2. A consequence is something that is produced after a series of events. IE. For example. If you drive 45 in a 25, and a policeman takes your picture with his radar gun you will get a sizable ticket. It was like God telling Adam and Eve "Don't eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil for if you do, you will surly die." The choice produced the consequence. And the Consequence would always remain in their thought to help them make right choices. But you still have the pain/consequence of 45 in a 25 in the ticket.
 3. Punishment has to do with consequences. And consequences lead us to think about our choices. Why is punishment necessary?
- B. We did something wrong! That is the simplest answer. I am not going to theologize or philosophize. Cut to the chase. We get punished for something we did wrong. We did something we knew we were not supposed to do.
1. Some Biblical examples:
 - a) Adam and Eve- wrong- punished - work by sweat, pain in child birth. Gen 3

- b) Lots Wife turned to salt. Gen 19:26
 - c) Moses was not allowed to go into the promised land because of a single act of disobedience, according to Numbers 20:1-13. Moses was to speak to the rock not strike it.
 - d) David counted his men and God punished him, according to 2 Samuel 24:1-17. God gave David three choices, and he had to choose his own punishment: three years of famine in the land, to flee from enemies for three months, plague in the land for three days. David chose not to fall into human hands. Therefore, he chose for God to send a plague on the land where 70,000 men died. 2 Sam 24:17
 - e) According to Acts 5:1-10, a husband and wife cheated God and lied to the Holy Spirit. Therefore they died as a result.
 - f) According to Acts 12:23, Herod failed to praise God. He was struck by an angel and eaten by worms.
2. I did something wrong....once....
- C. Punishment has to do with justice. SO I DESERVE IT!!!
- 1. Sometimes punishment is for teaching like we just looked at.
 - 2. When an offense is committed, punishment is required as retribution (pay back).
 - 3. This is what happened in the Garden of Eden. It is what happens in our lives. Sin.
 - a) Adam and Eve had sinned against God. And punishment came immediately.
 - b) I/we had committed a crime against God (called sin) and punishment was coming my way full force.
 - 4. We all dislike being punished. We deserve to pay for it, but we dislike that fact.
 - 5. Here is an interesting reality. Punishment makes mercy all the more beautiful. And Jesus is our rescuer. Video for the kids.

II. Jesus Took Our Punishment - We have a rescuer!

- A. Jesus took our punishment! His very name, "JESUS" means God saves! He rescued us! He is the first, last and only responder to our condition.
- 1. *upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.* NRSV
 - 2. *the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.* NIV
 - 3. *He endured the punishment that made us completely whole, and in his wounding we found our healing.* TPT
- B. The Man was not guilty! He had no sin. He was totally innocent yet took upon Himself the full magnitude/brunt of the whole worlds sin! Listen Is 53:5
- 1. He was pierced for our rebellion.
 - 2. He was crushed for our sin.
 - 3. He was beaten so we could be whole.
 - 4. He was whipped so we could be healed. Is 53:10 and It was Gods good plan to do this!
 - 5. Jesus became sin (took the whole worlds sin upon himself) and as a result experienced the full fury of God's divine wrath. It is inconceivable! 2 Cor 5:21
 - a) Mt 27:46 "" ... *"My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"* (Matthew 27:46, NLT)
 - b) Jesus became sin and the Father could not look upon him! The same God-forsakenness that belongs to hell itself.

- c) This was God reconciling the world to himself!
- d) Christ bore our punishment! He took the full consequence of our sinful condition – forsaken, abandoned by God, even damnation itself. He has taken our place, received our punishment, received our judgement, and endured all of our pain.
- C. Let look at the cross/crucifixion. Lets look at the punishment. Movie: The Passion
 1. He was beaten (Is 52:14 disfigured) beyond recognition. Rejected, abused, no one cared.
 2. He was whipped Is 53:5 so we could be healed. I Peter 2:24.
 3. He was hung with two thieves. What does that tell us? He was guilty in that he carried our sin. From God’s perspective it was fitting that He hang with thieves.
 4. He was nailed to the cross He was pierced for our rebellion.
 5. A crown of thorns was place on his head. He took the curse pronounced by God.
- D. What did we get back?
 1. vs 5 so we could be whole! Shalom - peace. “Completion and fulfillment–of entering into a state of wholeness and unity, a restored relationship.” TWOT, archer harris A right relationship with God.
 - a) *“But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. ...that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.”* (Galatians 3:13-14, NLT)
 - b) Relationship - God in us.
 2. Vs 5 so we could be healthy!
 - a) Mentally - over shame, rejection
 - b) Physically - our bodies.
 3. vs 11 makes it possible for us to made and called righteous
 4. vs 3 He was rejected so we could be accepted.

Conclusion:

- "There is a story told about a mother who came to Napoleon on behalf of her son, who was about to be executed. The mother asked the ruler to issue a pardon, but Napoleon pointed out that it was the man's second offense and justice demanded death. 'I don't ask for justice,' the woman replied. 'I plead for mercy.' The emperor objected, 'But your son doesn't deserve mercy.' 'Sir,' the mother replied, 'it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask.' Her son was granted the pardon." The cross reveals that we do not get what we deserve...we get mercy.

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6, NKJV)

- The punishment that brought me peace was our punishment that Jesus took for us.
- The greatest miracle of all is that you would give your heart to Jesus this morning.
 - If you do, please let us know by emailing us, calling our office.
- Jesus is the healer. Spirit, soul, and body.