Notes for the 4th Sunday in January 2023

Changing Direction

(Part 5)

**Jonah 1:17**

Now the Lord had arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.

The Lord changes our direction through Discipline [or Chastening]—**Hebrews 12:5-8**

 5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you.
 6 For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”

 7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?

 8 If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.

 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

1. **Never Give Up When God Corrects Us—Hebrews 12:5 (NIV)**

 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you.

* True believers do not faint when God corrects us

**2 Corinthians 4:16**

 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

1. **God’s Discipline Confirms We’re Children of God**—**Hebrews 12:6-7 (NLT)**

 6 For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”

 7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?

* The Lord draws us to Him With Love—**Jeremiah 31:3** **(NLT)**

 “…I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love, I have drawn you to myself.

**John 1:12**

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

1. **God’s Discipline Encourages Us to Submit to God’s Will**—**Hebrews 12:9**

 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

**James 4:7**

 “So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”