

Parenting 101 from the book of Isaiah

Isaiah 1:1-18

It's Mother's Day – **My wife's request is no doom & gloom message today!**

But we're entering into a new section of Scripture known as "the Prophets." The prophets lived & ministered during a dark time in Israel's history - leading up to, during, & immediately after the fall of both Israel & Judah, & the Exile!

So how do I honor my wife, the mother of my children, yet also preach the book that is before us this morning, Isaiah – the 1st of the "Major Prophets"?

Let's talk for a few minutes about being a parent! **Parenting is hard work!** Being a mom and doing what so many moms do on a daily basis is no joke!

The sacrifices, the commitment, the unconditional love – **It is a beautiful, though not perfect, picture of how God parents us as our heavenly parent!**

Kristin & I are the parents of a very stubborn & difficult 3 yr. old right now! God is teaching us much about Himself as our heavenly Father, much about ourselves as earthly parents, & much about the depravity of mankind!

- There is a great, & very patient, heavenly Father that exists!
- There is a great selfishness and self-centeredness that **still exists** in us!
- There is a great wickedness that resides even in the cutest little child!

If Jesus Himself were here this morning, in the flesh, and said **"Let the little children come to me..."**, my 3 yr. old without hesitation would say **"NO!"**

She does the same to us, as she looks us right in the eyes - her parents, who love her dearly, provide for her every need, care for all her bumps & bruises. And she will run in the complete other direction rather than into our arms!

Parenting is hard work! It is a frustrating work! **It is a thankless work!** And who knows whether we are even doing it right? **We might be "training up a child in the way they should go,"** or we might be **scarring** them for life!

We could spend almost every waking moment of every day just disciplining our 3 yr. old! And I don't even know if it would even make a difference!

BUT... when our 3 yr. old gets disciplined, by us, & her immediate response after is to run towards us, to be held tightly by us, & to remain in our arms, despite us being the ones who just disciplined her – **in that we find hope!**

This is the message of Isaiah in a nutshell! God's people are stubborn, and their wickedness leads them to run away from God & His ways! For 39 chs. Isaiah reveals this ongoing disobedience & the discipline that followed!

Isaiah lived through 4 kings of Judah & 7 kings of Israel (divided kingdom), 60 years of God's people turning away from Him and saying, "No!" God could've disciplined them continually but that would have changed nothing.

The disciplining hand of God cannot change the wicked hearts of man! **Only the loving heart of God can melt man's heart of stone!**

For 39 chapters Isaiah reveals the hopelessness of the Law – condemnation! **But the final 27 chapters of Isaiah reveals the hope we find in the Messiah!** The book of Isaiah is a picture of the whole Bible – 39 chs. in OT, 27 in NT.

Larry Crabb's description of Isaiah in the "66 Love Letters" book – pg. 115 Let's read **Isaiah 1:1-18**, for it gives us a glimpse into the whole book!

"Children I have reared & brought up, but they have rebelled against me." vs. 2

"They have forsaken the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged." Vs. 4 They run in the opposite direction of God!

"The whole head is sick, & the whole heart faint." Vs. 5 The depravity of man!

"From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises & sores & raw wounds." Vs. 6 Punishment doesn't remedy it!

"If the Lord of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we should have been like Sodom, & become like Gomorrah." Vs. 9 True justice is not pretty!

"What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?... I have had enough..." Vs. 11

"When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you;" Vs. 15

"Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes..." Vs. 16 If only this would work, but it doesn't!

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Vs. 18 There is hope, amidst such doom & gloom!

"Without My judgment, My comfort means nothing. Without My comfort there is no hope." – God (66 Love Letters). This is parenting done well – God's way!

Parenting 101 from the book of Isaiah Isaiah 1:1-18

It's Mother's Day – My wife's request is no _____ message today!

But we're entering into a new section of Scripture known as "the Prophets." The prophets lived & ministered during a dark time in Israel's history - leading up to, during, & immediately after the fall of both Israel & Judah, & the Exile!

So how do I honor my wife, the mother of my children, yet also preach the book that is before us this morning, Isaiah – the 1st of the "Major Prophets"?

Let's talk for a few minutes about being a parent! Parenting is _____
Being a mom and doing what so many moms do on a daily basis is no joke!

The sacrifices, the commitment, the unconditional love – It is a beautiful, though not perfect, picture of how God parents us as our _____

Kristin & I are the parents of a very stubborn & difficult 3 yr. old right now! God is teaching us much about Himself as our heavenly Father, much about ourselves as earthly parents, & much about the depravity of mankind!

- There is a great, & very patient, heavenly Father that exists!
- There is a great selfishness and self-centeredness that _____ in us!
- There is a great wickedness that resides even in the cutest little child!

If Jesus Himself were here this morning, in the flesh, and said ***"Let the little children come to me..."***, my 3 yr. old without hesitation would say _____

She does the same to us, as she looks us right in the eyes - her parents, who love her dearly, provide for her every need, care for all her bumps & bruises. And she will run in the complete other direction rather than into our arms!

Parenting is hard work! It is a frustrating work! It is a _____ work! And who knows whether we are even doing it right? We might be ***"training up a child in the way they should go,"*** or we might be _____ them for life!

We could spend almost every waking moment of every day just disciplining our 3 yr. old! And I don't even know if it would even make a difference!

BUT... when our 3 yr. old gets disciplined, by us, & her immediate response after is to run towards us, to be held tightly by us, & to remain in our arms, despite us being the ones who just disciplined her – in that we find _____

This is the message of Isaiah in a nutshell! God's people are stubborn, and their wickedness leads them to run away from God & His ways! For 39 chs. Isaiah reveals this ongoing disobedience & the discipline that followed!

Isaiah lived through 4 kings of Judah & 7 kings of Israel (divided kingdom), 60 years of God's people turning away from Him and saying, "No!" God could've disciplined them continually but that would have changed nothing.

The disciplining hand of God cannot change the wicked hearts of man! Only the loving heart _____ can melt man's heart of stone!

For 39 chapters Isaiah reveals the hopelessness of the Law – condemnation! But the final 27 chapters of Isaiah reveals the hope we find in _____
The book of Isaiah is a picture of the whole Bible – 39 chs. in OT, 27 in NT.

Larry Crabb's description of Isaiah in the "66 Love Letters" book – pg. 115
Let's read **Isaiah 1:1-18**, for it gives us a glimpse into the whole book!

"Children I have reared & brought up, but they have rebelled against me." vs. 2

"They have forsaken the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged." Vs. 4 They run in the _____ direction of God!

"The whole head is sick, & the whole heart faint." Vs. 5 The depravity of man!

"From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises & sores & raw wounds." Vs. 6 Punishment doesn't _____

"If the Lord of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we should have been like Sodom, & become like Gomorrah." Vs. 9 True _____ is not pretty!

"What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?... I have had enough..." Vs. 11

"When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you;" Vs. 15

"Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes..." Vs. 16 If only this would work, but it _____

"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Vs. 18 There is _____ amidst such doom & gloom!

"Without My judgment, My comfort means nothing. Without My comfort there is no hope." – God (66 Love Letters). This is parenting done well – _____