Live Give Grow Go (12)

**SERMON NOTES**

Responding to God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Last week’s message was Heavy – (“Hard Sayings of Jesus”)

* *‘We’ve made a way to pay verbal homage to Jesus’s as Lord and still maintain control of our lives…we’ve believed that you can indeed serve both God and Mammon…”*
* *“The Majority of Modern Christians Aren’t Being Honest with Themselves, With their Children, With God, or With Others.”*
* *“Stop Playing Christian…Choose!”*

I’m thrilled with the dialogue it has created, and the questions it has raised with some of you…

We live in a society that struggles (or outright rejects) any kind of correction or critique…

* Any kind of correction or critique is considered **“negative”** and **“not appropriate”**
* Legitimate disagreement is seen as **“being difficult”**
* To say that’s **“wrong”** or **“not ok”** is viewed as radically **“intolerant”** or **“judgmental”**
* Church Discipline a thing of the past – seen as **“primitive”** **churches are being sued for it**…

The Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 4:2-8**

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. **3**In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. **4**And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, **5**but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

**6**Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? **7**If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” **8**Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

**John 15:1-2** “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. **2**He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and **he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more**… **8**This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, **showing yourselves to be my disciples.**

**Can Come Through**:

* “heavy message”
* a disappointment
* not getting what we want
* getting what we want
* relationships with family; friends; enemies
* health issues;
* great loss…

How Do We Respond to, or Process the *Hard Sayings*; Hard Lessons; Hard Seasons?

1. Don’t Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Timothy 3:15-17** From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16**All Scripture is God-breathed and is **useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,** **17**so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**1 Peter 4:12-13 12**Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. **13**Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

2. Take it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Diligently Search for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 12:5-9** “My son, **do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord**, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him;

**6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines**, And He scourges every son whom He receives.”

**7**It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? **8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.** **9**Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

3. Trust God Even if You Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 12:10-13 10**For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He *disciplines us* for *our* good**, so that we may share His holiness. **11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful;** yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards **it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.12**Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, **13**and make straight paths for your feet, so that *the limb* which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather **be healed.**

**1 Corinthians 10:13** The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

What am I meant to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Why Has God allowed me to experience this…?

**Psalm 42:3-11 – a Psalm of Hope**