

# Sermon Notes

## Now What? Appendix (Part 6)

### November 11<sup>th</sup> – November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- **Now What? Recap**
- How Redemption Works. (here, down here, up here)
  - o What we do at the low point makes all the difference.
- Recap on last week's announcement.
  - o How do we take it to the next level? Add a Cloquet Pastor and I focus on new initiatives.
    - I still preach every week. Not always at this location. Let's see what the Lord can do!
- **Part 6: Appendix**
  - o The low point is actually addressed in Scripture quite a bit.
- **Hebrew 12:1-13**
  - o **Heb 12:1-3.** From week 1. Context is hardships and how to handle them.
  - o **Heb 12:4-6.** Apparently, their challenges weren't that bad, but they were whining anyway.
    - **Proverbs 3:11-12...Prov 3:13-18** comes right after that. Discipline leads to wisdom!
  - o **Heb 12:7-11.** This is how to handle the low point.
    - 1) Interpret hardship as discipline. (v7) Believe to always learn lessons or skills.
      - May not actually be the Lord's discipline. There is lots of hardship that isn't.
        - o Could be just randomish. (**Luke 13:1-5**)
        - o Could be the devil. (**Luke 13:10-16**)
        - o Other people can cause it. (**Luke 17:1-2**)
        - o You can even be causing your own hardships...which leads back to discipline.
    - 2) Take this as proof you belong to the family of God and are loved by God. (v8, v6)
    - 3) Believe you won't be at this low point for long because God is bringing you up!! (v10-11)
  - o **Heb 12:12-13.** So, go get the redemption God has for you!! Get wisdom and understanding!
- That the low point is just a passing stage for those walking by faith is also shown in:
  - o **James 1:2-4**
  - o **Romans 5:1-5**
- So, what do we do with hardships, trials, and suffering?
  - o 1) **Be Assured!** That is, be secure enough in the Lord and in yourself to not deflect, but rather to face hardships head on. Be full of faith and honesty.
  - o 2) **Grow!** Have a growth mentality and focus on the future potential.
  - o 3) **Endure!** Realize that the Kingdom of God (and you by extension) is worth suffering and sacrificing for.
- What are our other options? What do people sometimes do with hardships, trials, and suffering?
  - o 1) **Burn the world to the ground.** Repay this evil world with destruction...of the innocent...
  - o 2) **Crumble.** Embrace a victim mentality and never rise up from the low point.
  - o 3) **Party!** Turn to hedonism/personal pleasure to try to make life worth living. Abandon purpose.
  - o 4) **Play the Fool.** Just keep living the same life but never learn anything.
- The Lord wants more for you than this. He wants you strong and healed. Full of wisdom and understanding. Mature and complete, not lacking anything. Full of perseverance, character, and hope.
- So, what hardships are you going through?
  - o Are you being overlooked? Are you always getting knocked down? Financial struggles? Marriage issues? Sin have a foothold? Inner torment? Health struggles? Unmet expectations? Family problems? Fear, anxiety, depression? Rebellion against God? Resisting God's call on your life??
  - o Let's invite the Lord in and let this part of our lives be redeemed. **Hebrews 12:12-13**
- Get personal prayer by emailing [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag).