

Preparing our Hearts for the Lord's Table

The Fruit of the Spirit: Patience

July 16, 2017 – Mark A. Weathers

i. Prayer

ii. Call the children to the front

- A. I have two questions for you:
1. What makes you angry (really mad)? (*discuss*)
 2. What do you do to get rid of your anger? (*discuss*)
- B. Today I want to talk about *patience*
1. What does *patience* mean? (*discuss*)
 2. In the OT, the people spoke a language called Hebrew
 - a. Hebrew is a funny language (funny for us)
 - b. You read it from right to left
 - c. This is my Hebrew Bible (show Bible)
 3. I want to read Exodus 34:5-6
 - a. First, let me get my glasses (put on disguise glasses)
 - Do you like these?
 - Makes my nose look bigger, doesn't it?
 - b. I'm going to read this, and you let me know if something sounds funny
 - c. The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, long of nose, and abounding in covenant love and truth..."
 4. Did something sound funny?
 - a. "Long of nose"
 - b. That's how the Hebrew language describes *patience*
 - c. We have phrases too that people who don't speak English would think sound funny:
 - Having goose bumps
 - Hitting your funny bone
- C. I want to tell you a story that talks about someone being "long of nose." This is a true story from a friend of mine named Hannah
1. When Hannah was a little girl she wanted a kitten
 2. Her father said, it's a big responsibility; hard work
 - a. You'd have to play with it everyday (kittens have lots of energy)
 - b. You'd have to clean out his litter box
 - c. You'd have to feed him
 3. Hannah said, "I can do it, dad"

4. One day he bought her a kitten
 5. For the first few weeks she loved the kitten
 - a. Played with the kitten everyday
 - b. Cleaned out his litter box
 - c. Fed him
 6. But after about a week, she got tired of taking care of the kitten
 7. Her dad came home from work and asked: Did you feed the cat today?
 8. No, she hadn't
 9. Her father breathed in deeply; she saw he was frustrated
 10. "Go do it," he said (Hannah ran off to care for the cat)
 11. Second day, her dad came home
 - a. Same thing
 - b. Hannah's dad was a little more angry
 - c. But he took a deep breath – he was patient
 12. Told her, "Hannah: you must take care of this kitten"
 13. "Tomorrow, if I come home and find you didn't care for the cat, someone is going to get a spanking"
 14. Next day, he came home; Hannah had not cared for the cat
 15. Told her to go upstairs to her room
 16. He walked in and she was crying
 - a. "Please dad, don't spank me; I promise I'll be good"
 - b. Then Hannah said her dad did something she'll never forget
 17. He said: "Hannah, I told you if you disobeyed, someone would get a spanking"
 - a. He rolled up his sleeve
 - b. Began slapping his arm (hard)
 - c. "What are you doing, dad?"
 - d. His arm was getting red
 - e. "Dad, what are you doing?"
 - f. Stop, you're hurting yourself
 - g. He didn't stop; Hannah began to cry
 18. Hannah understood
 - a. The spanking she should have got, her daddy took for her
 - b. She said from then on she took care of the kitten
 - c. When she remembered her daddy's red arm
- D. This is the Gospel – Our God is so patient (long of nose), and He, in Christ, took the punishment we deserved.
- E. I want to pray for you all and give you a present (have Katy hand out glasses to kids)

iii. Preparing our Hearts for the Lord's Table

- A. Turn with me to Matthew 26 (pg 832) & Acts 1 (pg 909)

- B. Last Sunday we looked at the *Fruit of the Spirit of Peace*
1. We looked at *what is peace (shalom)*
 2. *How we get peace*
 3. I didn't have time for last point: *what do we do with peace?*
 - a. I wanted to push it off to this week
 - b. Well, I'm going to push it off again until next week and connect it with "kindness"
 - c. Today, I want to focus on patience
- C. I've heard throughout my life as a Christian this maxim:
Don't ever pray for patience. Because if you do, God will put you in situations where you have to exercise it.
- D. Ever heard that?
1. I disagree
 2. **Problem is our definition of patience**
 - a. **We think the essence of "patience" is waiting**
 - My sons waiting for Tara & me after church to quit talking so they can go home ("Come oooooon dad!")
 - A husband waiting for his wife in the mall as she tries on clothes
 - That's such a small aspect of the fruit we call patience
 - b. **You heard the OT definition of patience**
 - *Long of nose*
 - Very descriptive
 - Nostrils were important to the Hebrews
 - § Represented life
 - § God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life
 - Someone who loses their temper, we say their nostrils flared
 - Long of nose can also be rendered "slow of nose"
 - Deep breath
 - Something to be said for "when you're angry, take a deep breath"
 - c. **NT definition**
 - Greek word for *patience*
 - **A state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune, and without complaint or irritation** (Louw & Nida Greek Lexicon)
 - **That's what I want!**
 - § I don't want to be rattled by anything
 - § I want to be able to control my temper in the face of provocation

- § I want to live life without complaining or retaliating
- § I want to live like God: long of nose

• So... **Pray for patience**

- E. Matthew 26:26-46 (**READ**)
- F. In this passage the disciples show how impatient they were
1. Promised loyalty to Jesus, but they'll failed
 2. Luke's account tells us they argued about who was better
 3. They get bored in the Garden of Gethsemane
 4. Fell asleep
 5. When Jesus was arrested, they panicked and fled
- G. Flip over to Acts 1:12-14 (**READ**)
1. **Now** they prayed
 2. What made the change?
 - a. They were on their own (Jesus had ascended)
 - b. Jesus had also just promised the Holy Spirit
 3. Acts 1:8 (**READ**)
 4. Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and like a wild fire, the Gospel advanced
 - a. We see great changes in the disciples – esp. Peter
 - b. Slept so deeply the night of his arrest (by Herod)
 - Greek word is that Peter was really sawing logs!
 - Was about to be executed, and yet slept like a baby
 - Emotional calm in the face of impending doom
- H. Application for us...
1. Only the Spirit enables us to bear the fruit of patience
 2. We walk by the Spirit
 3. That's how we bear fruit