

Life Church Sermon Sheet:

Date: Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

Rev. M. Dixon

Title: **Becoming Wise Pt. 2
Raising the Expectations,
Purpose and Passions!
Matt 25:1-13, Rom 5:1-5**

Going from being Foolish to Wise and helping others
along the way via healthy expectations.



1. **Review:** We have Reached Resurrection Sunday!

a. **What Lent is**... Preparation for 6 weeks in celebration of Liberty paid for at the Cross and brought home via an empty tomb. Question... Do we prepare for Easter as well as we do for Christmas? Our expectations priority of Christmas points to what we value. What does that mean for our actions? How does the resurrection impact our lives, and how does the stuff we do everyday get in the way of our becoming who we were meant to be? **Your Homework... My Challenge this year (want to hear a few if time... if not now next week):**

b. **Matt. 25:1-13 Revisited- Being ready for Christ's return.** What is the purpose of the Wedding? Of Christ Return?

c. **Romans 5:1-5 Growth Process- Death Process**

i. Healthy Suffering→ Patience→ Character→ Natural Identity of Love..

ii. Unnecessary suffering→ impatience with authority→ Low expectations→ Low Love

2. What is the Purpose of the Resurrection? _____
How does it impact how we live? _____

3. What is the Purpose of Church? _____

4. What is the Purpose of School? _____

5. **After Watching Video- what is School for,** what things do you agree with? Disagree with? What things may have been over simplified?

6. These problems lead to many not being prepared for Christ's return because the power of the resurrection is undermined. What I see as problems in traditional Education & Church...

a. **Pharisee-ism:** misplaced passions and abuses... Students feel the teachers cares more about a textbook than them. That they care about rules rather than hearing their voice. Those mistakes undercuts respect people have in authority...

b. **Lack of respect for others and self.** Paul said follow me as I follow Christ. Fear of Lord (and authority in general) is the beginning of wisdom- putting understanding into practice. If my teacher said to sit down, I would sit down... That is being loss in schools today, but also in churches in part because we have been hurt internally. Satan undermines all authority because it undermines God's authority and we have to follow God on His terms- Follow his resurrected son, not because he was a nice dude, but because he Proved victory over Death and Satan. He has the rings that show he

has earned the right to be our alpha! This eroding of respect leads to a relativism and destruction of truth! In a world where we have more knowledge at our fingertips, we have more people who are flat earthers! Who live in echo chambers and cannot see truth no matter how it is presented... this is the same in political communities, and in religious communities that abuse truth for their own ends.

- c. **Lack of Discipline, passions, expectations, & more abuse** result from lack of respect. If you respect your parents, you listen to them, and begin to value similar things and respect their viewpoint because you have seen them live it and care for you naturally. Your passions are impacted by their passions, talents, skills and resources- like having a keyboard in the house. Abuse happens when there are too many expectations to be like a parent and no space for a child to develop their own voice and identity. Harmful neglect happens when there are no expectations with follow through and students/congregants can do whatever they want and they have no work ethic needed to become successful in anything from sports to math.
- d. **Love cannot develop where there is no discipline or high but healthy expectations** (needed to grow strong) or too much discipline or ungodly expectations used to control children, students or church members vs helping them make healthy individual choices in safe spaces (where mistakes can be made). Passions take time to flourish, as well as exposure to the world, potential gifts and healthy priorities. Once they are nourished, they grow in us naturally. The SAT model of testing does not show the true value of a person, nor their political leanings, but their unconditional love for the saints... That is how we should be known!
- e. **Examples- High Expectations and Questions and explorations- Video...**

7. Now what do you think the purpose of Church is? Or Should be? _____

What about your talents/purpose/ Things you love and hate? _____

8. What videos /blogs/ etc. would you like to Make? What gifts do you have? _____

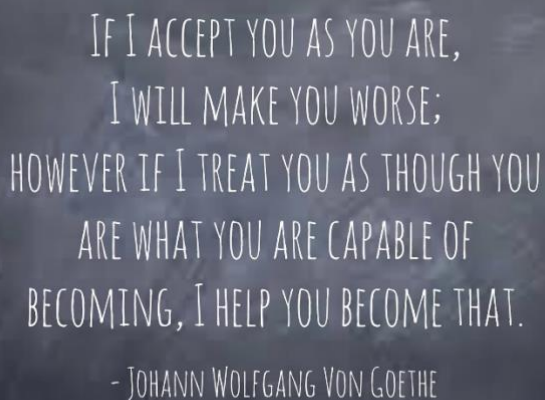
9. What areas do you feel you need higher expectations of yourself? How can God be your coach? _____ Remember the growth mindset, it is not just big jumps and victories but small victories over time that build proven character...

10. Why do you think low expectations hurt students/ Parents and youth so much? _____

11. What ways can we be legalistic or see people as problems versus image bearers who need support and

prayer? _____

12. Prayer List: What people and/or areas of your life do you need to pray for regarding your oil for God? _____



IF I ACCEPT YOU AS YOU ARE,
I WILL MAKE YOU WORSE;
HOWEVER IF I TREAT YOU AS THOUGH YOU
ARE WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF
BECOMING, I HELP YOU BECOME THAT.

- JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

TheCompelledEducator

Palm Sunday Sermon: Becoming Wise- Going from a Fool to a Fool for God

Michael Dixon
Life Church Boston
4/14/19



Palm Sunday

April 14, 2019

Palm Sunday



This is a day where we begin Holy Week, Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem...But it would not last long.



Hosanna means Save now! Imploring Jesus to save the People From the rule of the Romans... He would defeat Death, but in a way that valued even the Romans... He died for all not just the Jews.



The 5 wise virgins were on Jesus Side... and would be on it even after the Cross. The 5 foolish virgins may have come out to the wedding... Like on Palm Sunday, but were not there at the tomb!



Being ready means being real with God! This is Jesus warning when he returns... Having our internal oil... What can truly burn ready...

Matt 25: 1-13 ERV

A Story About Ten Girls

25 “At that time God’s kingdom will be like ten girls who went to wait for the bridegroom. They took their lamps with them. ² Five of the girls were foolish, and five were wise. ³ The foolish girls took their lamps with them, but they did not take extra oil for the lamps. ⁴ The wise girls took their lamps and more oil in jars. ⁵ When the bridegroom was very late, the girls could not keep their eyes open, and they all fell asleep.

⁶ “At midnight someone announced, ‘The bridegroom is coming! Come and meet him!’

⁷ “Then all the girls woke up. They made their lamps ready. ⁸ But the foolish girls said to the wise girls, ‘Give us some of your oil. The oil in our lamps is all gone.’

⁹ “The wise girls answered, ‘No! The oil we have might not be enough for all of us. But go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰ “So the foolish girls went to buy oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The girls who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked.

¹¹ “Later, the other girls came. They said, ‘Sir, sir! Open the door to let us in.’

¹² “But the bridegroom answered, ‘Certainly not! I don’t even know you.’

¹³ “So always be ready. You don’t know the day or the time when the Son of Man will come.

The Parable of the 10 Virgins

Matthew 25:10

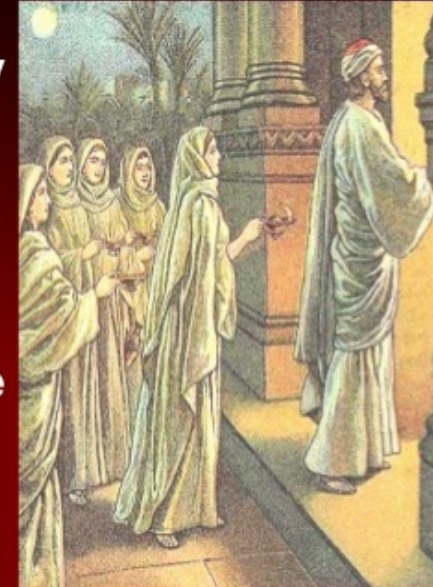
- The groom arrives, quickly enters the wedding feast
- The door is shut while the foolish are still gone

Matthew 25:11-12

- The 5 foolish virgins arrive later and seek entry
- Not allowed entry

Matthew 25:13

- Ties parable back to Mt 24:42



► New Living Translation

Matt 24:42 “So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming.

The Fool is PROUD

1. He doesn't learn from his mistakes.
(Proverbs 26:11) As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.
2. He is sure he is right.
(Proverbs 26:12) Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
(Proverbs 12:15) The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

**A fool
says in
his heart
there is no
God.**

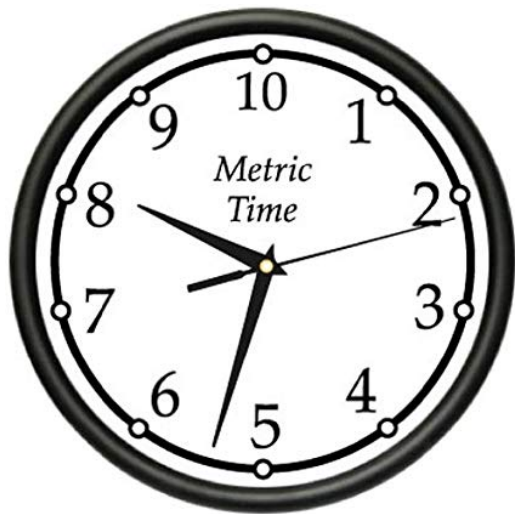


What is a fool?

The 10 virgins were like bridesmaids today... they would be “paired” up with others at the ceremony and after party! Not being there was not just bad for them but for the wedding itself.

Bible is clear to talk about what it means to be foolish, and warns us to not be foolish... That is like saying to a poor person- don't be poor... The real this is that we are all fools, the wise are those that are humble enough to admit it and get help in TIME not to die from a source that can actually help!

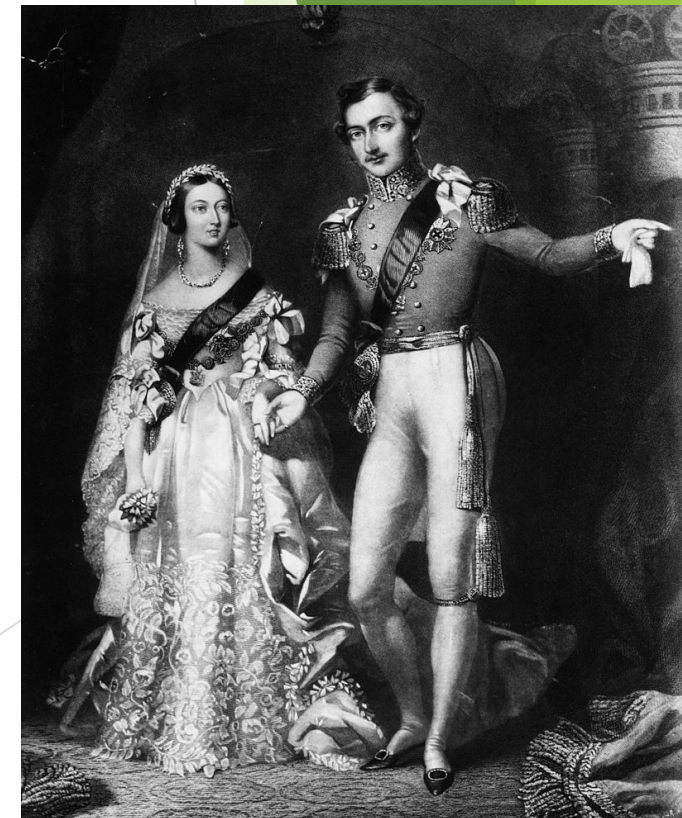
What Makes us Different- Our Stories... Jesus Gave us these stories to help us to Understand our responsibility when he comes back. It is not about not sinning, but having our hearts right



- ▶ Our Stories and imagination Create our Reality. God added some details for us, like the 7 Day week, Hebrew Laws, Language, Marriage etc. But we have added to our stories to help us create civilizations, like at Babel...
- ▶ What makes us different from animals... one idea is our stories... We sometimes forget that most of our world's structures are created... Days of the week, Made by God... The Babylonians gave us the 60 minutes and hours... Napoleon had different ideas... Like Metric time... Also Money for example is built for trade but it is just a piece of paper with a value given to it by man, but that value gives birth to communities, manufacturing, economies, etc. Our stories, our Imaginations (based on our connection with God's) give structure, purpose, invention, to our lives... Like the 3 pigs our stories can help us to learn, especially through our sufferings... Which lead to Hope Faith our identity in Christ to a natural love of God and others that fulfills all we do... Eternal life begins at Faith, but Faith begins at Hope, and Hope begins with suffering... That suffering can end.

Today we are going to talk about the 10 virgins- Daughters who were looking to get married.

- ▶ Why? To be fulfilled biologically? To connect politically, militarily or economically? Or for the modern version for love? Polygamy wasn't just a personal choice it was a social one based on the preservation of a family inheritance. If you look at the Daughters as trying to look out for their economic interest, it was very important to take care of your business! To not be at the wedding was to not be where it was socially acceptable to talk with men and create contacts that could help you get married... The tossing of the bouquet is not just symbolic, the wedding was social connection that allowed the next marriages to easily form. To not be at the wedding was serious, and if you went to a wedding with the right family who could set you up for life, could be a missed opportunity. Think of being invited to Bill Gates or the Walton's family wedding..



This story is NOT about virgins or weddings but about Christ's return and being ready.

- ▶ Think of it again as financially not just out of love for Christ... How stupid would you be to miss the wedding of the richest man on earth. The wedding would be stacked with other rich people you could get to know, who could set you up for life, support your very good cause, help you start a music career, etc. And Love you beyond measure... All you had to do get their on time and do the preparation to make sure that happened... Like find parking, get gas, order an uber, etc. and you just didn't do it...



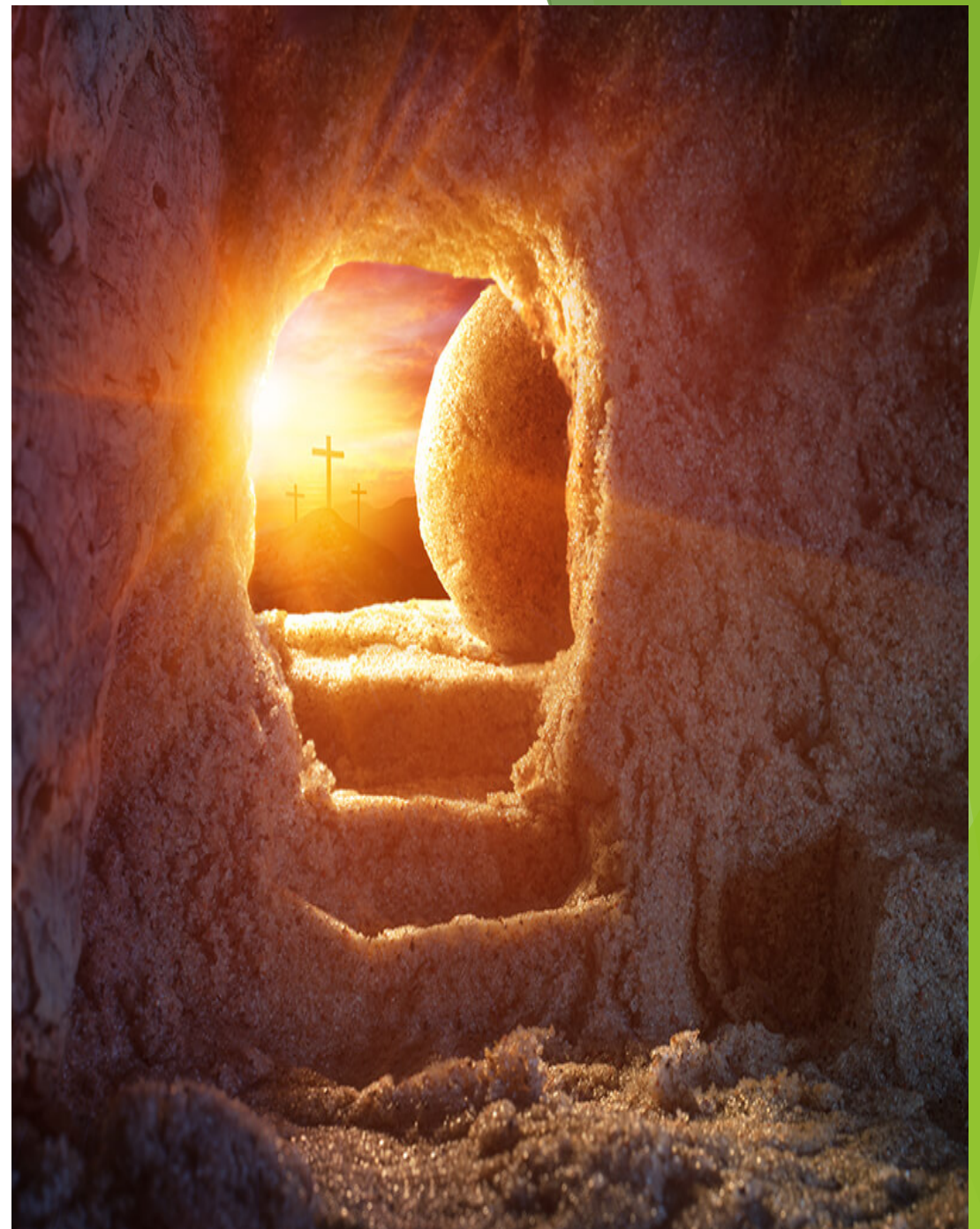
YOU'RE INVITED

CELEBRATE

Resurrection Sunday

Life Church Boston 4/21/19
Epiphany Early Learning Center
230 Centre St. Dorchester, MA 02124

SERVICE STARTS AT 10:30 AM



**Resurrection Expectation- Matters
of the Heart! Letting the
Resurrection help you find your
purpose, Change and fulfill you!**

BUT HE LIVES

- ▶ As people we need a nervous System to Feel and to Grow, not just for us but for our future... Our DNA is shaped by our Suffering...Epigenetics and by the expectation of our persevering Through it... It truly changes us.

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- ▶ **Matt. 25:1-13 Revisited- Being ready for Christ's return.** What is the purpose of the Wedding? Of Christ Return?
- ▶ **Romans 5:1-5 Growth Process- Death Process**
 - ▶ Healthy Suffering → Patience → Character → Natural Identity of Love..
 - ▶ Unnecessary suffering → impatience with authority → Low expectations → Low Love



SCHOOL

After Watching Video- what is School for, what things do you agree with? Disagree with? What things may have been over simplified?

▶ _____

These problems lead to many not being prepared for Christ's return because the power of the resurrection is undermined

▶ . What I see as problems in traditional Education & Church...

▶ Pharisee-ism: misplaced passions and abuses... Students feel the teachers cares more about a textbook than them. That they care about rules rather than hearing their voice. Those mistakes undercuts respect people have in authority...

PHARISEE-ISM

IT'S EASIER TO
CONDEMN PEOPLE
THAN TO LOVE THEM

Matthew 23:4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

Lack of respect for others and self.

- ▶ Paul said follow me as I follow Christ. Fear of Lord (and authority in general) is the beginning of wisdom- putting understanding into practice. That is being lost in schools today, but also in churches in part because we have been hurt internally. In a world where we have more knowledge at our fingertips, we have more people who are flat earthers!

RE-SPECT
MEANS...

to look
again

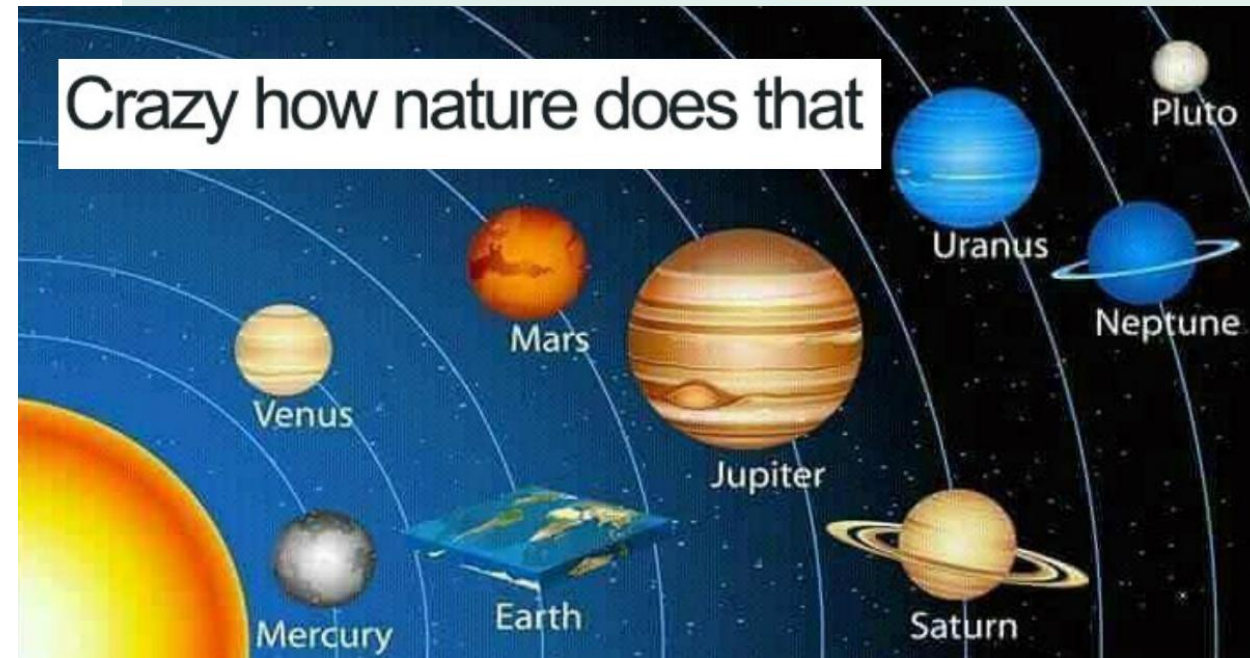
SELF-RESPECT
IS DEFINED
AS:

knowing
you're a unique
contributor
to the greater
whole

PEOPLE WITH
SELF-RESPECT
BEHAVE
LIKE...

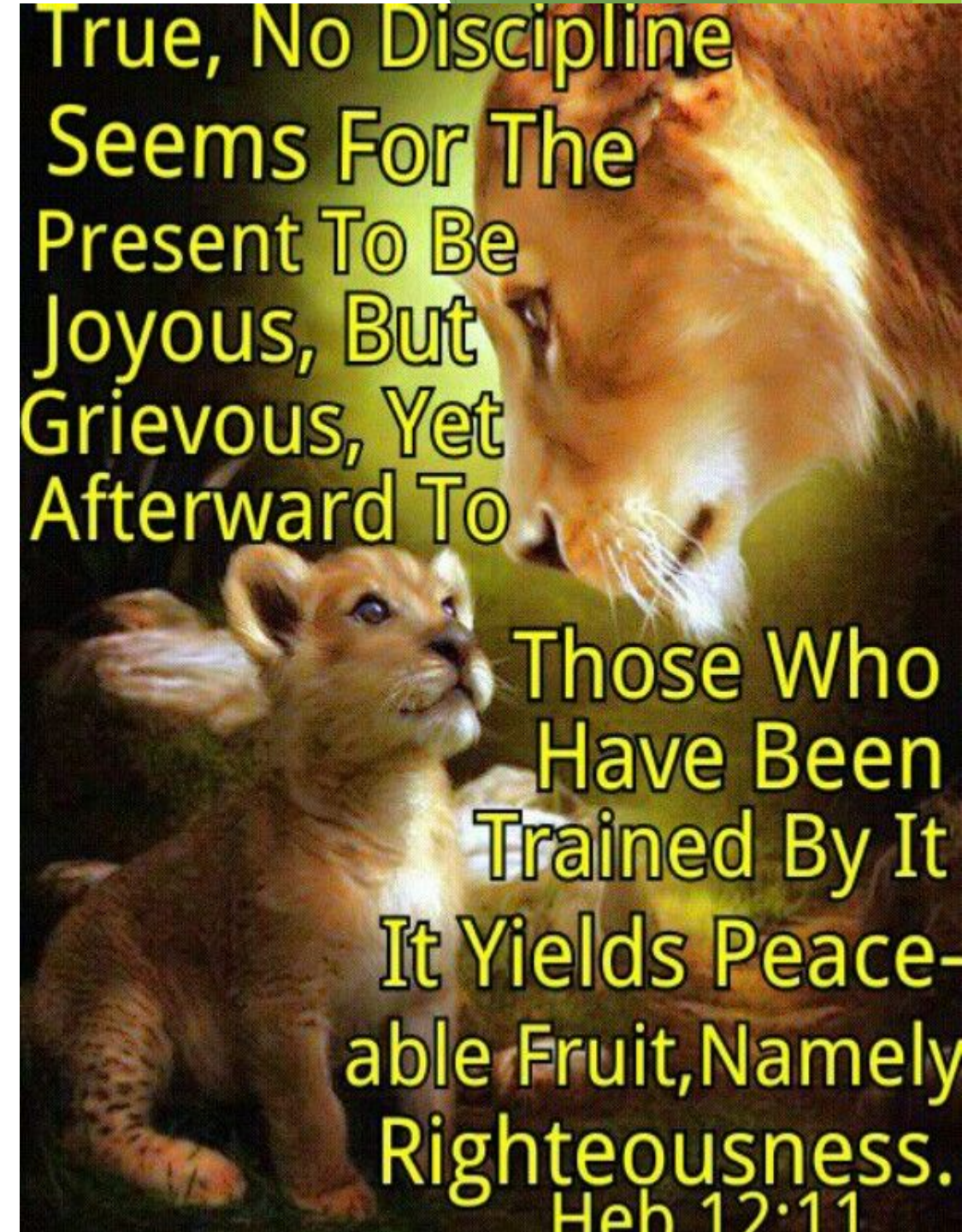
I matter.
You matter.

Crazy how nature does that



Lack of Discipline, passions, expectations, & more abuse result from lack of respect

- ▶ If you respect your parents, you listen to them, and begin to value similar things and respect their viewpoint because you have seen them live it and care for you naturally. Your passions are impacted by their passions, talents, skills and resources- like having a keyboard in the house. Abuse happens when there are too many expectations to be like a parent and no space for a child to develop their own voice and identity. Harmful neglect happens when there are no expectations with follow through and students/congregants can do whatever they want and they have no work ethic needed to become successful in anything from sports to math.



True, No Discipline
Seems For The
Present To Be
Joyous, But
Grievous, Yet
Afterward To

Those Who
Have Been
Trained By It
It Yields Peace-
able Fruit, Namely
Righteousness.
Heb 12:11

Love cannot develop where there is no discipline or high but healthy expectations

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