

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Title: Like Father, Like Son

Speaker: Matt Ewert

Text: Exodus 34:1-10; John 3:14-20

Date: March 19, 2018



WARM-UP

- "It's a hopeless case!" Have you ever said those words or heard them used by others? Where? When?
- Doing a "Pilate" – shirking his responsibility; washing his hands (See Matthew 27:22-24): A tough situation popped up. Were you relieved when you decided that it was *someone else's* responsibility to deal with the issue?

DISCUSSION

TEXT REVIEW:

- We sometimes don't see the resemblance of the God in the New Testament compared to what we think we see in the Old Testament.
- **Like father, like son** – Jesus, in the New Testament, is a chip off the Old Testament block:

The God in the Old Testament:

- ⇒ Review Exodus 34:6-7 (NRSV and NIV says to the "thousandth generation.")
- ⇒ The key connection: Old Testament example that God "bears with us" (Hebrew – "nasa"): Genesis 4:9-15
- ⇒ John Goldingay: "*Yhwh chooses to pay the price (for our wrongdoing) rather than making us do so. Yhwh thus declines to let the relationship with Israel be broken by Israel's wrongdoing. God bears the cost of human sin.*"
- ⇒ Dr. Rob Hiebert: "**God is exponentially more inclined towards grace and mercy than towards anger and wrath.**"

The God of the New Testament:

- ⇒ God doesn't change his mind in the New Testament:
 - * God's (His own) disposition remains the same: John 3:14-20
 - * God's disposition toward humanity remains the same: I Peter 2:22-25 "You were straying like sheep."
- ⇒ Jesus continues God's same action (in the Old Testament) by lifting up, carrying, bearing our sins on Himself.

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DISCUSSION

APPLICATION: MOVING TOWARD EASTER

- How do we sometimes fail "our apprenticeship" under Jesus as our Teacher and Master?
 - ⇒ Tendency toward judging others:
 - * Are we concerned *first* about wrong and right (holiness) – a disposition toward condemnation rather than grace and mercy?
 - * Do we pull a "Pilate," washing our hands of hopeless cases?
 - * As an apprentice of Jesus, am I "*exponentially more inclined towards grace and mercy than towards anger and wrath?*"
 - ⇒ **We are to be "burden-bearers":**
 - * Galatians 6:2
 - * Bonhoeffer: "*A Christian becomes a burden-bearer...As Christ bears our burdens so we are to bear the burdens of our sisters and brother...in the deepest sense (of) his or her sin. I cannot bear it except by forgiving it, by the power of Christ's cross, which I have to come to share.*"
 - * In the reality of our world:
 - **Is this a time of repentance?** Someone has egregiously and obviously sinned against God and perhaps against a brother or sister or against yourself:
 - a. Have you passed on the responsibility on to someone else to deal with this? Doing a "Pilate"?
 - b. Can you forgive this person, in the depths of your heart, in order to maintain the relationship?
 - c. How can you be a burden-bearer in this instance?
 - ⇒ **Dealing our own sin:**
 - * Your sin has not been dealt with and your guilt is too much to bear.
 - * Two choices:
 1. Insist on carrying the load of sin to your own ruin and defeat; convinced you are in a hopeless situation.
 2. Face sin with honesty, face it head on, and let go of it so that Jesus can take up your burden of sin.