

## ***New Sermon Series: Living Successfully for God***

8/31/25 “God Loves, Even in Discipline,” Deut. 1:41-2:7, NLT

**INTRODUCTION** Disciplined as a child? Still fed, clothed, loved? *Suffering can have many causes...*

Context: Didn’t trust God, so would die in wilderness. Tried without Him to correct mistake but suffered. Edomites (Esau was Jacob/Israel’s brother).

**MAIN IDEA: Walk with God through hardship.** Why? Here are 3 reasons.

### **I. First, we suffer when we walk apart from Him (1:42-44)**

- A. our distrust of Him harms us
  - 1. immediately...*we reject His offered help*
  - 2. ongoing...*as we try to live without Him*
- B. the world has dangers too much for us (44)
  - 1. by ourselves, we have limited strength, endurance
  - 2. enemy of our souls is more powerful than we are...*lies to, discourages,, torments us—came to steal, kill, destroy (John 10:10)*
- C. trying to avoid discipline hurts us further...*lying*

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

### **II. Second, we are surrounded by people He cares about (2:4-6)**

- A. they have relationship with God (**Joshua 24:4, John 3:16**)... *He created & cares about them; provides for them (Matt. 5:45)*
- B. hurt people hurt people...*would have been easy for Israelites to take out frustration on Edomites*
  - 1. natural reaction might be to lash out
  - 2. tend to think about own hurts, not other people
  - 3. can be condescending as His children
- C. others might not treat us well
  - 1. might feel threatened by us

2. might not trust us

D. He instructs us in relating to them

- 1. not to bother them (2:5)...*by poking finger in eye; difference between witnessing in love & harshness*

**Bother:** stir up, provoke, anger

**Mark 14:31, NLT:** “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

**Romans 12:18, NLT:** Do you all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

2. not try to take what is theirs (2:5)

- 3. pay them for what we need (2:6)...*what they deserve; not trying get things for free*

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

### **III. Third, He will take care of us (2:7)**

A. Bless us in all we do...*in relationship with Him*

**Bless:** prosper (*Brown-Driver-Briggs*)

B. Watch over us all of the time...*knowing us intimately*

C. Be with us

D. meet all of our needs (lack nothing/*word, deed, thing*)

**Matthew 6:31-33, NLT:** “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ **32** These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. **33** Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

### **CONCLUSION:**

**ALTAR:** suffering? Struggling in relationship with God?