

**February 2, 2020**

**Series: God Has A Name**

**Part 3: I Changed My Mind**

How did your parents punish you when you were young?

What was the purpose of them punishing you?

How does God punish us?

Is there a difference between “discipline” and “punishment?”

What are some things you remember from last Sunday’s message?

Was there anything that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

READ: Exodus 34:5–7 (NIV)

“Yahweh, Yahweh, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

READ the same verse in the NLT:

“Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations.” Exodus 34:5–7 (NLT)

What was the difference Jim pointed out between these two translations and its significance?

Share about a time when you took great delight in seeing someone else get punished, or seeing justice served in some way. *[If not very many people have a story to share, movies will work.]*

Why is seeing justice served so satisfying?

Is it every satisfying when you are on the *receiving* end of justice? (...you did the wrong and are being punished for it).

In week one of this series Jim said, “The only thing that can keep you from God’s compassion and grace is thinking you don’t need it.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

What does the word “repent” mean? [A: To change your mind/heart/behavior.]

What is more more likely to cause you to “repent”: pain or comfort?

READ: Psalm 103:1-14

“Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

What is your favorite verse of this Psalm?