

Screen notes are highlighted

Scripture is red lettered

Bolded statements are teaching points

Landmines - Disappointment

Psalm 42:1-5:

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so I long for you, God. ²I thirst for God, the living God. When can I come and appear before God? ³My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long people say to me, "Where is your God?" ⁴I remember this as I pour out my heart: how I walked with many, leading the festive procession to the house of God, with joyful and thankful shouts. ⁵Why, my soul, are you so dejected? Why are you in such turmoil? Put your hope in God, for I will still praise him, my Savior and my God.

Central Idea of the Text: The Psalm gives insight into the ups and downs that the Psalmist is experiencing in his relationship with God. Hardship comes, and he feels disappointed, abandoned, and punished. Yet, he is speaking to his soul and believing in God's character and goodness. This depicts that regardless of what happens in life, what God allows, He is near and desires to draw us into his presence.

Big idea: **Disappointment is inevitable and will be a landmine in almost every area of our lives. God knows, cares, and wants to make us more like Christ through it.**

OVERVIEW & SET-UP:

There are parallels for us in our life and relationship with the Lord:

- Landmines are meant for destruction when you least expect it.
- Landmines lie just beneath the surface and are often placed in well-traveled areas creating minefields that are dangerous to cross (we are talking about areas that we will all face but have the potential to be dangerous).
- A land mine may cause damage by direct blast effect, but there is often collateral damage that the person and those surrounding them will face.

So far, we've covered the landmine of: selfishness, laziness, anger, our thoughts, and greed Today, we will cover what I call a "gateway landmine" **DISAPPOINTMENT**.

Today we are going to look at the life of Moses:

- Where did he face disappointment?
- How can we identify the landmines?
- What do we do after we find them?

INTRODUCTION:

DEFINITION OF DISAPPOINTMENT:

- Sadness or **displeasure** caused by the **nonfulfillment** of one's **hopes or expectations.**
- The sense of sadness and frustration that results from **failure**, either from **our own failure, the failure of others, or both.**

EXAMPLE OF DISAPPOINTMENT RECENTLY - (might cut this out)

- My family and I went to FL and found ourselves at the Lego store
- My 6-year-old had no idea we were going to this store and others, but he was told ahead of time that this wasn't a shopping spree.
- We walked into the Lego store for some reason, immediately, we knew we had to move on to "plan b."
- We spent a while while he decided on Star Wars, Jurassic Park, or Ninjago...? Shockingly, he said I want them all! We helped him decide on one, and he walked out disappointed.

*Even when something good happened, he was disappointed. This impacted his mood and outlook, and because he (nor we) lives life in a bubble, it impacted us. Much like Juju...**It's vital for us to determine the source of our disappointment.***

SHIFT TO WHERE WE FIND DISAPPOINTMENT (Life of Moses)

- **Exodus 2:11-15:** Years later, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his own people and observed their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian striking a Hebrew, one of his people. ¹²Looking all around and seeing no one, he struck the Egyptian dead and hid him in the sand. ¹³The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you attacking your neighbor?" ¹⁴"Who made you a commander and judge over us?" the man replied. "Are you planning to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses became afraid and thought, "What I did is certainly known." ¹⁵When Pharaoh heard about this, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

I'm disappointed with myself. - *What can that mean?*

- My personal life
- My past failures
- My short-comings

Collateral Damage: Isolation, shame, hiddenness,? (We may have a tendency to hide emotions and thoughts.) From this position, lies and sin can thrive in our hearts and lives, and we live a life less than the way He intended.

God's Response:

Exodus 3:1-2: Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb,^[b] the mountain of God. **2** **Then** the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush... **10** therefore, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

- He shows up
- He repurposes disappointment

- **Numbers 12:1-2:** Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. **2** "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the Lord heard this. **3** Moses was a very humble man, more so than anyone on the face of the earth. **4** Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "You three come out to the tent of meeting." So the three of them went out. **5** Then the Lord descended in a pillar of cloud, stood at the entrance to the tent, and summoned Aaron and Miriam.

I'm disappointed with others. - *What can that mean?*

- Family (spouse, kids, parents, siblings, etc.)
- Friends (they said they would be there, and they weren't...)
- Church

Collateral Damage: Bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness...? This is dangerous because we cannot experience the freedom that God has for us and the love that He's called us to live out.

- **Hebrews 12:14-15:** Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness—without it no one will see the Lord. **15** Make sure that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many.

God's Response:

Numbers 12:4-8: Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "You three come out to the tent of meeting." So the three of them went out. **5** Then the Lord descended in a pillar of cloud, stood at the entrance to the tent, and summoned Aaron and Miriam. **6** he said: "Listen to what I say: If there is a prophet among you from the LORD, I make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. **7** Not so with my servant Moses he is faithful in all my household. **8** I speak with him directly, openly, and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. So why were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

- He shows up
- He affirms His plan and purpose for Moses

- **Deuteronomy 3:23-27:** "At that time I begged the Lord: ²⁴ Lord God, you have begun to show your greatness and your strong hand to your servant, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can perform deeds and mighty acts like yours? ²⁵ Please let me cross over and see the beautiful land on the other side of the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon. ²⁶ "But the Lord was angry with me because of you and would not listen to me. The Lord said to me, 'That's enough! Do not speak to me again about this matter. ²⁷ Go to the top of Pisgah and look to the west, north, south, and east, and see it with your own eyes, for you will not cross the Jordan.

I'm disappointed with life (present and potential future). - *What can that mean?*

- I thought my situation would be better (goals, hopes, and dreams).
- I thought I would have advanced further
- No one ever told me I (or a loved one) would get sick.

Collateral Damage: Prayerlessness, a coldness toward the Holy Spirit, a divided mind, living for a lesser purpose. ?...(distraction, pleasure, appearance, etc.)

God's Response:

- He shows up.
- He's faithful (gave Moses what he needed to accomplish the work he had).
- He fulfills his promise.

Deuteronomy 34:5-7: **5** So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the LORD's word. **6** He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab facing Beth-peor, and no one to this day knows where his grave is. **7** Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his eyes were not weak, and his vitality had not left him.

NOW WHAT?

For that, I want us to return to Psalm 42, because the author gives us insight into where he lands.

Psalm 42:6-11: I am deeply depressed; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. ⁷ Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your billows have swept over me. ⁸ The Lord will send his faithful love by day; his song will be with me in the night—a prayer to the God of my life. ⁹ I will say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about in sorrow because of the enemy's oppression?" ¹⁰ My adversaries taunt me, as if crushing my bones, while all day long they say to me, "Where is your God?" ¹¹ Why, my soul, are you so dejected? Why are you in such turmoil? Put your hope in God, for I will still praise him, my Savior and my God.

Return to the source of truth, God's Word.

Psalm 42:6: am deeply depressed; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

Understand that the Holy Spirit is working to bring you back to the source of truth. If we are not rooted here, then the disappointments will wreak havoc on our relationships with God, others and His plan for your life.

- Make no mistake, it begins with the Gospel.
 - **Titus 3:4-5:** But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, **5** he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
 - The Gospel for the lost and those without faith, hope and trust in Jesus saving work.
 - The Gospel, for the wayward person, who has allowed the landmines of life, sin, circumstance, etc. to make you cold towards God.
 - The Gospel, for us, the found, who trust Jesus with our eternity but for some reason resist allowing near the disappointments of life and the collateral damage.

Fight for perspective: Perspective will determine our response.

Ps. 42: 8: The Lord will send his faithful love by day; his song will be with me in the night—a prayer to the God of my life.

- For Moses, all he could presently see was in front of him, hardship, trial, disappointment, etc. What Moses needed was a shift of perspective.
- For the Psalmist, he is a few verses removed from saying "...My tears have been my food day and night..."
- God's perspective determines our response.
 - **2 Corinthians 4:16-18:** Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. ¹⁸ So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

THREE QUESTIONS:

- Am I alone?
- Can God use this for His glory?
- Will I surrender and allow the Holy Spirit to make me more like Jesus?

St. John Henry Newman meditation

God knows me and calls me by my name.... God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission—Somehow, I am necessary for His purposes...I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught.

I shall do good, I shall do His work; Therefore, I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; In perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him, my sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life, He may shorten it; He knows what He is about.

I ask not to see—I ask not to know—I ask simply to be used.