

Wisdom Not Worry
Friday, May 15, 2020
Habakkuk 1:6

“I am raising up the Babylonians...”

As a parent, the most painful kind of love we give our kids is tough love. Yet, our willingness to exercise tough love is a true gauge of the intensity of our love. It is so much easier to give in than to follow through with pulling your child off the team, keeping them home from summer camp, excluding them from a family outing, or giving them a spanking as a consequence of their misbehavior. It wasn't until I became a dad that I fully appreciated the words, “This hurts me more than it hurts you.”

Tough love hurts because when our kids hurt, we hurt. It hurts because we want our kids to be happy. It hurts because tough love is rarely interpreted as love by the one on the receiving end of it. We can't bear the thought our children might question our love for them. Yet we do it, because of an immense love that is willing to risk misinterpretation. We do it because a love so deep is ready to forfeit short-term happiness for long-term holiness.

Habakkuk learned of God's tough love – “I am raising up the Babylonians...”. Like a child on the receiving end of a spanking he understandably questioned how God could inflict such pain. We aren't much different are we? When trials come, do we not also ask, “How could you do this to me, Lord?” Have you considered He's doing this because He loves you?

At just the moment the severity of our circumstances causes us to question His love, remember they are because of His love. As the writer of Hebrews “My son, do not take lightly the discipline of the Lord, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you. For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and he chastises everyone He receives as a son.’ Endure suffering as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?” (Hebrews 12:6-7). “See what great love the Father has lavished on us that we should called the children of God!” (1 John 3:1) Oh, the Love of God, that would love us enough to love tough.

Grateful,
Ben