

This week: A man who had a painful event happen to him; Chose to continue in the same pain. Move beyond.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 ⁹*Jabez was honorable above his brothers; but his mother named him Jabez [sorrow maker], saying, Because I bore him in pain. ¹⁰Jabez cried to the God of Israel, saying, Oh, that You would bless me and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and You would keep me from evil so it might not hurt me! And God granted his request.*

I. THE REALITY OF PAIN

A. Our story tells of a wounded man: **V9** *his mother named him Jabez (painful – or sorrow maker)*

1. Either his birth was traumatic - or the circumstances of his birth were traumatic
 - a. No mention of the father in a list of genealogy: *Either his father died or abandoned the family*
2. Everyone has pain in their past! *Something in life will hurt you – in an ongoing sense*
 - a. No father/father abandons/parents fighting/divorce
 - b. Abuse by parents: His mother named him painful! Physical/sexual/neglect/rejection
 1. Word traumas: *Painful words spoken to us/about us; Stupid/worthless/useless/wish never born*
 - c. Bad example: See/hear things you shouldn't
 - d. Death of loved ones
 - d. Finances: Poverty/loss of job/moving...
 - e. Family curses:
2. The Devil lies to us: You're the only one who has gone through this/felt like this
 - a. Not true! This story was recorded to help us; You're in the Bible!

II. THE POWER OF PAIN

A. The Devil uses pain to gain entrance: **Genesis 4:7** *sin lies at the door...seeking entrance*

1. **The entrance of family curses:** *Children repeat the same demonic/destructive patterns; Hate - become*
2. **The entrance of anger and bitterness:** **Ephesians 4:27** *give no place to the devil...open door/base*
 - a. Literal anger held on to: We speak about/think about what happened to us
 - b. Rage has a root!
3. **The entrance of blame:** *We use our pain as an excuse; That's why I'm this way!*
 - a. Victim mentality: I get a free pass
 - b. Our pain becomes our identity: This is who I am
4. **The entrance of despair:** *There's no hope of changing/having a different future*
 - a. People become stuck: *They never move on; They live their whole lives in the land of pain*

III. MOVING BEYOND

A. Our story gives hope: You can move beyond your pain!

1. The past doesn't have to determine your future!
2. God is willing to help you move beyond pain: **V9** *Jabez cried to God... Oh, that You would bless me...*
 - a. *Bless: A supernatural dimension; A miracle that only God can do!*

B. But our story shows us the principle of responsibility:

1. You are responsible for your own life! *The source of what happens...*
 - a. **Romans 14:12** *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*
2. **Jabez identified what he needed:** He obviously examined his own life
 - a. How do I feel? How do I react? How do I view life?
 - b. He took responsibility for what he identified
3. **Jabez took his pain to God:** **V9** *Jabez cried to God... Oh, that You would bless me...*
 - a. He didn't try and tough it out alone: **V9** *that Your hand might be with me...*
 1. *I recognize I can't deal with this alone – I need your help*
 - b. He asked for deliverance: **V10** *You would keep me from evil so it might not hurt me!*
 1. *Don't let the pain implied in my name – be my portion in life; Set me free!*

C. Jabez prayed for enlargement **V10** *bless me and enlarge my border...*

1. I want to move beyond the restrictions of pain – the restrictions of the past
2. God responds to this heart: **V9** *Jabez was honorable above his brothers*
 - a. This shows God's opinion of you currently: He sees your pain – but sees great value/worth
 - b. This shows your future possibility: You can become something great – that blesses others
 1. His story is still encouraging people today!
 2. What about you? What do you choose?