

Pastor's Weekly Devotional – May 10, 2018

“The Dark Path of Anger and Bitterness”

Herman Melville's book, Moby Dick, tells a story of revenge and obsession. Captain Ahab, a whaler, loses a leg to a white whale. A smoldering anger begins to grow in the crippled one-legged captain. His anger grows into a fixation of revenge against the whale. As his lust and hatred grow, so does his lack of wisdom. The driving force of anger and bitterness override his good judgement, putting his crew and ship at risk. Finally, the whale was within Ahab's grasp. A chase ensues for three days. The captain ignores the advice from his crew because he was so consumed with his own inner perilous sea of hate and anger. In the end, the ship was destroyed, he lost his life along with the crew except for one.

Moby Dick illustrates the dark path down which hatred, anger and bitterness can lead. We may think revenge will bring us peace. But it does not. It is self-destructive. Bitterness is the great deceiver. It can make us feel powerful, back in control. Yet, it is the path which will eventually separate us from God.

The prophet Habakkuk learned to overcome resentment even though his family and his enemies all bitterly disappointed him. So he complained to God. He bemoaned the terrible treacheries. God's answer was simple. "Vengeance is Mine," says the Lord. God told Habakkuk to be patient, wait and trust. As a result, Habakkuk surrendered his pain to God and began to rejoice in the faithfulness in God.

Surrender your pain to God like this prophet! Let go and let God have His way!

Have a blessed week!
Pastor Sewdin