

“WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE”

Text: Job 1:20-22

Subject: How To Keep Going When Life Doesn't Make Sense!

Introduction **It's no secret...**

- That no one can escape grief and loss.
- That no one is exempt from pain and sorrow.
- That no one will waltz through life without tears.
- That no one is free from unexpected events that can break the heart.

Illustration: Adam and Eve buried their son (unexpectedly).

Illustration: Abraham buried his spouse.

Illustration: David buried his son.

Illustration: Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus.

Illustration: Mary wept when Jesus died at Calvary.

(And Job is no different than you and me.)

- In Job chapter 1:9, the question was asked, “Does Job fear God for naught?” **(In other words)**
- It was insinuated that Job served the Lord for selfish reasons.
- It was suggested that Job would turn against the Lord if unexpected pain came his way.
- It was thought that Job would respond the wrong way to grief, loss, pain, sorrow and a broken heart.

Question: What happens when life (at times) doesn't make sense?

Answer: Two things: #1. We are driven **away** from God (or) #2. We are driven **to** God!

In other words

1. We can move **further** from the Lord (or) 2. We can move **closer** to the Lord!

Question: Where is God in times like these?

Question: Where is Jesus when it hurts?

Question: How can I become **better** and not **bitter**?

Question: What is it that will enable me to keep going and be strong in the Lord?

God has the answer:

(For in Job 1:21 &22, Job responds the right way to his loss, pain and grief.)

Remember Beloved – in Job Chapter 1:

1. Job lost his **employment** (his oxen).
2. Job lost his **finances** (his sheep).
3. Job lost his **transportation** (his camels).
4. Job lost his **friends** (his three companions).
5. Job lost his **health** (his body broke down).
6. Job lost his **encourager** (his wife's support)
7. Job lost his **offspring** (his children died unexpectedly).

Question: What do I do when (like Job) my heart is broken from grief and loss.

Four Things That Will Make A Difference In Your Life.

I. Job Looked “Back” To his Birth:

He said in v. 21 **“Naked came I out of my mother’s womb.”** (In other words)

- Job acknowledges that he is only a steward (a manager) and that everything in life belongs to God.
- Job confesses (as he looks back) that he came into this world with nothing.
- Job realized that his family was on loan as a gift from God for a season.

And So It Is With You And Me

1. We all come into this world with nothing at birth.
2. And, for a season, the Lord has blessed us with our family and friends.
 - So let’s **“thank God”** for the time He has given us with one another!
 - Let’s **“thank God”** for the gift of family and friends.
 - Let’s remember (in our sorrow) the time God gave us with _____

Name of deceased

#1 Job looked back

II. Job Looked “Ahead” To His Own Death

V. 21 **“And naked shall I return.”** (In other words)

- “I’m going to return to “mother earth” (ashes to ashes and dust to dust).
- “I’m getting ready for the world to come.”
- “I’m leaving the temporary to inherit the eternal.”

What a reminder here:

1. That the mortality rate is 100% - everybody dies (and)
2. That all of us, (some younger and some older) will pass away.
3. That all of us can be ready to meet the Lord with confidence.
4. That Jesus died on Calvary so that whosoever will may come and be saved.
5. That God has made a way to be ready to meet Him.

Four things Jesus doesn’t know:

1. He doesn’t know **any sinner** that He does not love.
2. He doesn’t know **any sin** that he cannot forgive.
3. He doesn’t know **any other way** that we can be saved.
4. He doesn’t know of **any better time** to be saved than right now.

#1. Job looked back, #2. Job looked ahead.

III. Job Looked “Up” In Faith

He said in v. 21, **“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”**

In other words

- Instead of cursing God, Job looked up and blessed the Lord.
- Instead of blaming God, he still acknowledges that God is good.
- Instead of looking around at other people, he fixed his eyes upon the Lord.

We can do the same today.

- We can (in the midst of our pain) acknowledge that the Lord is good.
- We can **“look up”** like Job, and find grace to help in time of need.
- We can **“look up”** to God and find comfort, strength and hope to keep living.

- We can “**look up**” to God and believe II Corinthians 1:3&4” *“Blessed be God...the God of all comfort who comforts us in all of our tribulation.”*
- Today – let’s “**look up**” to God and receive his comfort and strength and help in our sorrow.

Job looked back, ahead, up and:

IV. Job Looked “Within” And Stayed Free From A Destructive Attitude:

(V. 22) *“In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly”.* (In other words)

- Job refused to allow himself to get bitter.
- Job refused to stew in his own juice.
- Job refused to let evil get the upper hand and imprison his spirit.
- Job submitted himself to God for safe-keeping.

Yes, Job was hurting.

- ◆ He felt the loss of his loved ones. ◆ He was grieved over what took place.
- ◆ He even got angry at God for a time. ◆ He was hurting from his loss and pain.

All normal emotions

- But he rose above his pain and loss by understanding that God is still good.

Illustration

When William Barclay’s 21 year old child died, he said: “God didn’t prevent the storm that happened, but God did still the storm within my own heart.” (He said)

When things like this happen, there are just three things to be said:

1. To understand them is impossible
2. Jesus doesn’t offer solutions to them, but does offer His strength so that we can handle what we do not understand.
3. Instead of resentment against God that meets life with a chip on the shoulder, we can go on living, go on working and find in the presence of Jesus the strength to meet life with steady eyes because we know that God too is afflicted in my affliction.
 - I often say that “Tears are good because leaky heads don’t swell.”
 - The Bible says in John 11:35 that Jesus wept when Lazarus died.

Question: Why did Jesus weep at the grave of Lazarus in John 11:35?

1. Because Jesus knew that his friend would be missed.
2. Because Jesus felt what the others felt.
3. Because Jesus saw the consequences of sin.

The Bible says:

1. *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23)
2. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23)
3. *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Romans 10:13)

Question: Are you willing to call upon the Lord and receive His forgiveness?

Question: Do you need power and strength outside of yourself?

Question: Is there a longing (like Job) to “**look up**” and receive the comfort that only God can give?

Altar Call
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