

“JOB”

Text: Hebrews 5:11/ Job 1:1-22
Subject: How To Suffer And More Than Survive

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, (with tears).

Illustration: David buried his son, (at birth).

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 nought?”

(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 said that Job would respond the wrong way to grief, loss, pain, sorrow and a broken heart.

Question: Pastor, what happens when life (at times) doesn't make sense?

Answer: (2 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: Pastor, 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, Job responds the right way to his loss, pain and grief)

I. Job's Character (1:1)

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God and eschewed evil”.

(4 Character Traits)

#1. Job was “Perfect” (Which means:)

- ◆ Not that Job possessed sinless perfection, but that he wholeheartedly wanted to please God.
- ◆ It means that Job did not attempt to serve two masters.

#2. Job was “Upright” (Which means:)

- ◆ Job had a good relationship with other people.
- ◆ Job maintained his integrity in all of his dealings with people.

#3. Job “Feared God” (Which means:)

- ◆ Job had a steadfast disposition that took God extremely serious in every area of his life.
- ◆ Job responded properly in his heart to the holiness of God.

#4. Job “Eschewed Evil” (Which means:)

- ◆ Job turned away from sin and evil of every kind.
- ◆ Job refused to compromise with the little foxes that spoil the vine.

II. **Job's Challenge (1:6-19; 2:1-8)**

"And the Lord said to satan, have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth?" (v. 8)

"Then satan answered the Lord and said, does Job fear God for nought?...Put forth your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face". (v. 11)

Question: What does this dialogue reveal?

Answer: That satan's attack against Job is really an attack against God!

(Satan Is Saying To God)

- #1. "The only reason Job serves you is because you pay him to serve you".
- #2. "You protect and prosper him as long as he obeys you".
- #3. "You don't have worthy followers God; you have to recompense people or they will turn against you".

(Satan Even Challenges A Second Time)

"And satan answered the Lord and said, skin for skin, yea, all that a man has will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch Job's bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face". (2:4, 5)

(In Other Words God)

- ◆ "Every man has his price".
- ◆ "Let me touch Job's family (and his health)".
- ◆ "Just give me permission to inflict Job with pain and you will lose your disciple".

(And What Does God Say?)

"Go ahead satan and afflict him". (v. 6)

(And Satan Roars)

"So went satan forth from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with sore boils from head to toe...and Job sat down among the ashes." (vs. 7,8)

(In Plain Vanilla)

- ◆ There is a war going on in the heavenlies!
- ◆ You and I are in the middle of it!
- ◆ And God reveals to us that the fundamental reason for Job's suffering is for two reasons:
 - #1. To silence the blasphemous accusations of satan, (and)
 - #2. To prove that a believer can honor God even though they lose everything.

III. **Job's Catastrophe (1:**

Question: What suffering does Job experience?

Answer: In one brief moment, Job suffers dearly:

- #1. Job lost his **livelihood**, (his 500 oxen are stolen).
- #2. Job lost his **finances**, (his 7,000 sheep were killed).
- #3. Job lost his **transportation**, (his 3,000 camels were stolen).
- #4. Job lost his **family**, (7 sons and 3 daughters are killed).
- #5. Job lost his **encourager** (his wife's support).
- #6. Job lost his **friends**, (his 3 companions).
- #7. Job lost his **health**, (as disease torments his body).

(Think Of It:)

- ◆ Bankruptcy hits home!
- ◆ Ten fresh graves!
- ◆ Disease that takes Job to the ash heap (garbage dump) outside of town.
- ◆ It's a disaster like none other:

“My kinsfolk have failed. My friends have forgotten me. My servant answers me no more. Young children despise me. My inward friends abhor me. They whom I loved are turned against me”. (Job 19:13-19)

Question: Why did Mrs. Job tell her husband to curse God and die, (give up?)

Answer: “His wife said, do you still retain your integrity after all of this?” (2:9)

Fact: Job maintained his integrity while suffering which means:

- #1. Job manifested great patience under trial?
- #2. Job refused to get sour and angry against God!
- #3. Job continued to place confidence in God!
- #4. Job continued to worship God wholeheartedly!

(What A Survival Lesson Here in Chapter 2:10)

- ◆ Job knows that cursing God is foolishness.
- ◆ Job knows that blessings (and burdens) are part of life.
- ◆ Job knows that its good to “keep quiet” and not accuse God of fault when we experience pain and suffering.

IV. Job’s Comfort (1:20-21)

Question: How does Job teach us to respond, when life at times doesn’t make sense?

(Job Responds 4 Ways:)

#1. 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 lets “**Thank God**” for the time He has given us with one another.
 - ◆ Let’s “**Thank God**” for the gift of family and friends.

#2. 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.

(4 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

#3. Job looked "Up" in faith:

He said in (v. 21) "The Lord gave and the Lord hath 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 acknowledged that God is good.
- ◆ Instead of looking around at other people, he fixed his eyes upon the Lord.

(We Can Do The Same)

- ◆ 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".

(Job looked back, ahead, he looked up, and:)

#4. 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 (and stew in his own juice).

Remember:

Bitterness is failure to see suffering from God's point of view.

- ◆ 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 even got angry at God for a time.
- ◆ He was grieved over what took place.
- ◆ 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 3 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."

AMEN!

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