

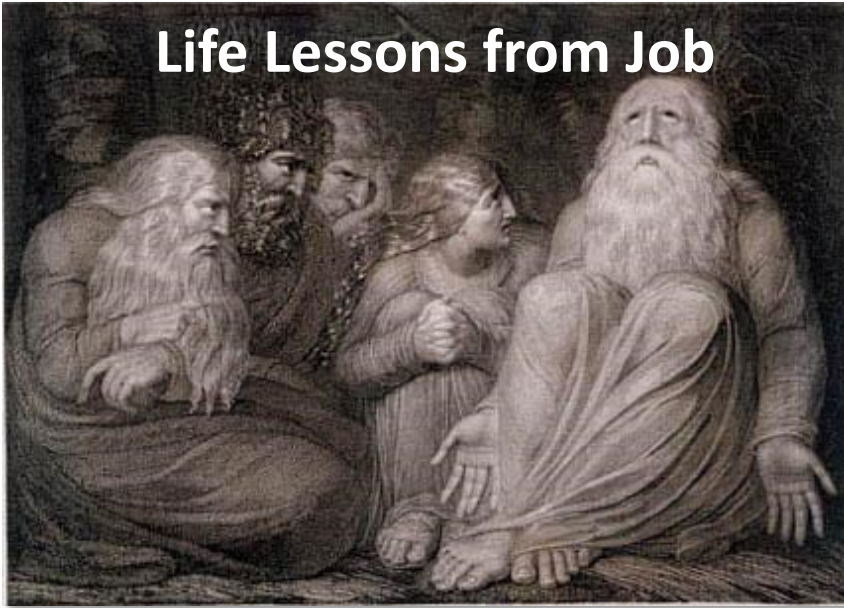


Life Lessons from the book of Job

A Thirteen Week Study

by Roger Shouse

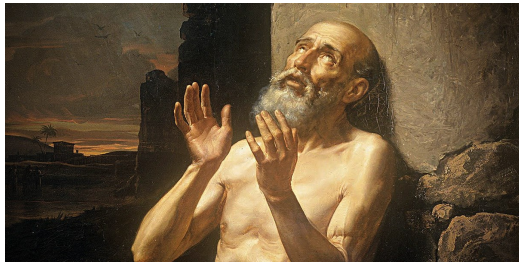
Life Lessons from Job



Outline of Class

Lesson One:	Why Job? Why now?
Lesson Two:	The Structure of the Book
Lesson Three:	The Theology of Others
Lesson Four:	Finding God in the Storm
Lesson Five:	Pain: Family & Friends (1)
Lesson Six:	Pain: Family & Friends (2)
Lesson Seven:	Job & God: His Feelings
Lesson Eight:	Job & God: the Lord Speaks
Lesson Nine:	How the Book Ends
Lesson Ten:	The Job Examples
Lesson Eleven:	Helping the Hurting
Lesson Twelve:	What we learn from Job
Lesson Thirteen:	Great is God

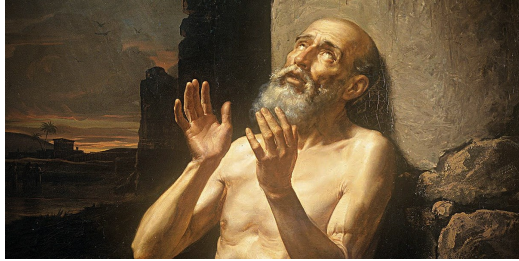




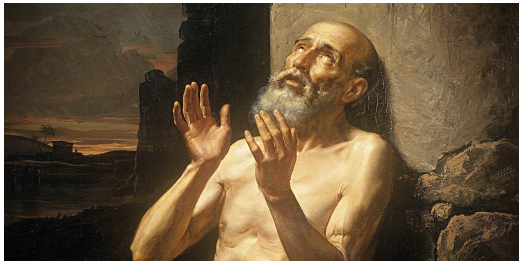
Lesson One:

Life Lessons from Job

Why Job? Why now?

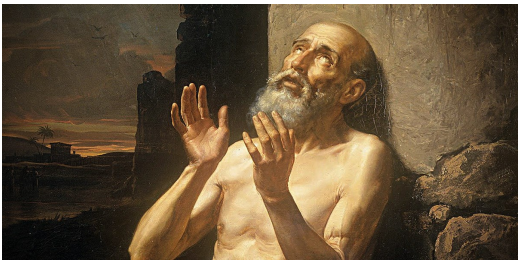


This quarter our focused is upon "Life Lessons from the book of Job." When the subject of tough times is looked at Biblically, certain books and specific people come quickly to our minds. We think about the suffering saints in Revelation. We think about the suffering Job. We think about Joseph in Egypt, or the captive Jews in Babylon.



Why Job?

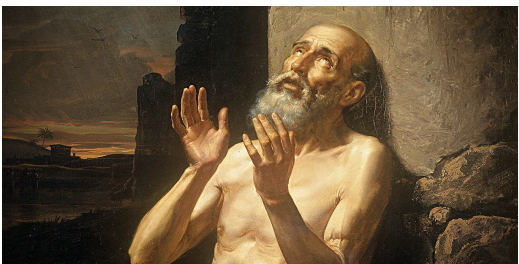
The book of Job was chosen because of all the powerful lessons that we can learn from it. This will not be a detailed chapter-by-chapter study of Job, but rather we will use Job as a launching point to look at many themes that we face with today.



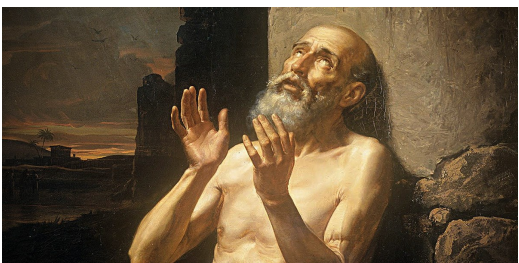
Powerful Lessons Taken from Job

1. The subject of suffering (particularly, unfair suffering)
2. Unbalanced theology
3. The Power of Satan
4. Understanding God
5. Spiritual Consistency
6. When our world collides with our faith
7. When friends disagree
8. Building a marriage that weathers the storms
9. Worshipping when I don't feel like it
10. Learning to help the hurting
11. Seeing Jesus in Job

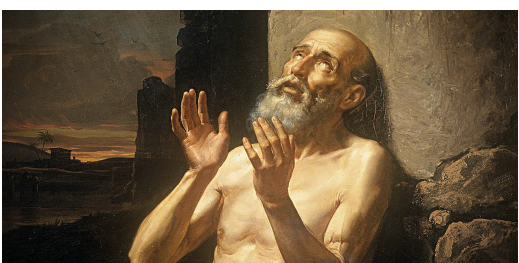
Why Now?



What life shows us is that people do not always live happily ever after. The good guy doesn't always win. The innocent sometimes is crushed. Those close to us, often hurt more than they help. All of this has a way of shaking our foundation and leaving us with more questions than answers.



Although there are many lessons found in Job, overall, the book of Job is about:



The Book of Job opens by showing us a good man on a bad day

Read Job 1

1. How is Job described (1:1, 8)?

Who makes that declaration?

2. Job's world falls apart

List the various ways Job suffered?

3. Job is not told about the conversation God has with Satan, which means what?

4. This chapter reminds us how fragile life is (Jas 4:14)

- we don't know what a day may bring
- life can end quickly

5. Why would God allow Satan to hurt Job?

- the way God operates is much more complicated than we often understand
- God causes blessings to fall upon the righteous as well as the unrighteous (Mt 5:45)

God's Hedges (1:10)

Satan believes the sole reason for Job's devotion to God is because of the "hedges" God has put around him.

- What are Job's hedges?
- Has God put hedges around you?



Why do we suffer?

1. Because of sin (Josh 7:24)
2. Foolish and bad choices (violation of natural laws)
3. Necessary to bring about death (Heb 9:27)
4. Time and chance happen to all (Ecc 9:11)
5. Punishment (1 Pet 4:15)
6. Trials of faith (Jas 1:2-4)
7. Discipline from God (Heb 12:4-11)
8. Resistance to our faith (Mt 24:9)
9. Satan (Lk 13:16; 2 Cor 12:7; Job 2:6; Lk 22:31)

What can we learn from suffering?

- Humans struggle (we are united in pain)
- We learn what is truly important in life
- Sin comes with consequences
- We are not in control
- God loves us
- There are things that we do not understand

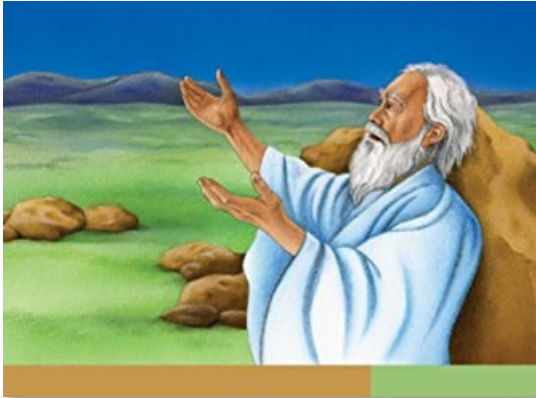
1 Peter 2:21 "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps."



I WALKED A MILE WITH PLEASURE
SHE CHATTERED ALL THE WAY.
BUT LEFT ME NONE THE BETTER
FOR ALL SHE HAD TO SAY.

I WALKED A MILE WITH SORROW
AND NE'ER A WORD SAID SHE;
BUT OH, THE THINGS I LEARNED
FROM HER WHEN SORROW WALKED
WITH ME.

The Structure of the Book



This lesson takes a look at the book of Job. It is important to understand the background of the book.

A. We do not know who wrote the book of Job or when it was written

- Job contains what is thought to be some of the rarest and oldest forms of ancient Hebrew
- there are more than 100 Hebrew words that are unique to this book

1. The time period of the book fits in the Patriarchal Period

- God speaks directly to Job
- Job offers sacrifices for his family
- No reference to the Law, priests, temple
- No references to Abraham, Moses, Noah
(Adam is referred to in Job 31:33)

2. The book of Job does not have any messianic prophecies in it

- there are no miracles in Job

3. Job lives in Uz (1:1) which is probably the land of Edom, SE of the Dead Sea

4. Job's name is found two other places in the Bible (Ezekiel 14:14, 20; James 5:11)

5. The outline of Job is found on page 2

The theme, "Does Job fear God for nothing" (1:9) comes from a conversation God has with Satan.

Who needs to know the conclusion of this statement?

B. Lessons about the storms in Job's life

1. They came quickly and unannounced
 - How does one prepare for this?
2. The storms came in multiple layers
3. The storms were life changing
4. It is easy to forget the many moments of sunshine in Job's life
5. Satan was behind these storms

The Chapter Ends With Job Doing Four things (1:20-22):

1. He worshipped (20)
2. He blessed God (21)
3. He did not sin (22)
4. He did not blame God (22)

Read Job 2

What is similar between chapter 1 & 2?

What is different between these chapters?

Four Things We Learn About Satan

1. He is evil in what he does
2. He has the power to hurt
3. He is limited by God and cannot operate without God's permission
4. His attack has a lasting impact upon us

Outline of Job		
Chapters 1-2	Introduction	
3	Job's pain	
4-5	Eliphaz's first speech	R O U N D
6-7	Job responds	
8	Bildad's first speech	
9-10	Job responds	
11	Zophar's first speech	
12-14	Job responds	1
15	Eliphaz's second speech	R O U N D
16-17	Job responds	
18	Bildad's second speech	
19	Job responds	
20	Zophar's second speech	
21	Job responds	2
22	Eliphaz's third speech	R O U N D
23-24	Job responds	
25	Bildad's third speech	
26	Job responds	
27-31	Job's conclusions	
32-37	Elihu's only speech	3
38-41	God speaks	
42	Conclusion	

Observations of the Speeches

1. Eliphaz & Bildad each have three speeches
2. Zophar has two speeches
3. These are more than casual conversations...no one interrupts
4. Job feels compelled to answer and defend himself
5. Elihu, being younger, waits until the others are finished, before he speaks
6. The speeches repeat themselves. This is done on purpose
 - Illustrate that they have nothing further to say
 - The reader is supposed to feel the burden of these senseless arguments
 - The reader is to agree with Job
7. The friends were happy to sit on God's throne for Him, but they weren't especially interested to enter Job's heart and pain.

1. The first to speak is Job (ch 3)

- His words here, prompt the long dialogue with his friends

- Job wishes that he either was never born (3:1-3) or at least died at birth (3:11)

Sometimes hurting people are not rational, logical or Biblical
Pain, medicine, grief, shock can take a toll upon our thinking
Job doesn't seem to have any outside help until his friends come

Sometimes hurting people just want to rant and are not interested in a conversation, answers or reason

- It is best to allow some time for the pain to settle and they are ready to talk

Storms in life can rock our faith if our foundation is not strong (Mt 7:24-27)

- This was Satan's intention. He wanted to destroy Job's faith.



The Theology of Others

In our last study, we noted that often when people are hurting, they say things without thinking. That must be kept in mind when trying to help others.

The study of Job takes us to the theology of others.



A. The Friends of Job

1. The dialogue begins because Job wishes he was never born. He is heart broken and hurting.

Job's friends immediately try to find a cause and they blame Job.
What would be a better solution when someone says what Job did?

2. The first to reply is Eliphaz
He begins by telling Job that he can't take what he has seen in others (4:2-6)

The premise of Eliphaz (4:7-11)

- (a) this is supported by Bildad (8:20)
- (b) Eliphaz gives evidence for his claims (22:5-9)
- (c) Job's children are accused (8:3-4)

The basis of this thinking: "what I have seen" (4:8)

Centuries later, this same theology appears (Jn 9:1,2; Lk 13:1-2; Acts 28:4)

3. Where Job's friends missed it:
 - (a) the character of Job
 - (b) the value of suffering
 - (c) how God deals with the wicked
 - (d) the mercy of God
 - (e) their own spiritual condition

Common Mistakes we often make

1. Assuming you understand everything
2. Thinking your problems are always worse
3. Avoiding talking because we don't want them to cry
4. Saying the wrong things
5. Pressuring someone to do something
6. Offering false hope (I know it will be better)
7. Misusing passages

What the friends have done has only made Job feel worse

- They lied (13:4; 21:34)
- They were terrible comforters (16:2)
- They considered Job a joke (12:4)
- They demanded that he repent (8:5)
- They insulted Job (19:1-3)

Your presence matters but remember

(1) It's not easy

There are sights that are not pretty
There are smells that are not pleasant
There are difficult situations

(2) It's hard to know what to say

Job 2:11-13
- they came
- they sat
- they cried
- they said nothing

4. Understand Just Because Someone:

- is emphatic
 - uses Scripture
 - is demanding and sure
- Doesn't make them right

B. Problems at Home (2:9-10)

Little is said about Mrs. Job. She suffered with her husband.

- We are not told about her faith.
- The tragedies crushed her (Mt 7:27). She did what Satan hoped Job would do.

In today's world, Job's wife may be finished with God. She may no longer want to worship.

- (a) men and women deal with suffering and grief differently
- (b) the various levels of faith will deal with suffering and grief differently (1 Thes 4:13)
- (c) what is said at home can hurt more than all the things our friends say
- (d) years of worship and faith can be washed away quickly by a sudden tragedy
- (e) we can wrongly assume that everyone in the household is doing fine because one person is recovering well
- (f) tragedies are similar to surgery. At first, they hurt. In time, the pain leaves, but there remains a scar
- (g) sometimes in dealing with our own pain we forget about the pain of the family
- (h) we must be willing to call for help before it's too late

Do you agree with what Job said to his wife (2:10)?
What else could have been said?





Finding God in the Storm

The pop group, Bee Gees sang a song about pain. The song, "How do you mend a broken heart?", says in the chorus, "And how can you mend a broken heart? How can you stop the rain from falling down?" For many people, it is in the darkness of the storm that we lose God.

As long as things are going well, we feel pretty good about God. But when the storm clouds of trouble roll in, doubts arise, worry escalates and we can begin to wonder where God is.

We know that He promises:

Ps 34:18 "The Lord is **near** to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Ps 23:4 "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art **with me**; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me."

Lk 4:18b "He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to **set free** those who are downtrodden"

A. Job didn't experience the closeness of God

1. He asked, "Why doest Thou hide Thy face, and consider me Thine enemy?" (13:24)

In a period in which God talked directly to man, God doesn't talk to Job. He leaves him to wonder, question and rely upon his faith

The Feeling of Spiritual Loneliness

- Prayers do not seem to be answered
- Worship seems empty and not useful or helpful
- Feeling burdened and overwhelmed
- Feeling like you alone are carrying the weight of the world
- Feeling like no one else understands or cares
- Feeling abandoned by God
- Feeling that sorrow is about to overcome you



Job isn't the only one to feel this way:

Ps 44:24 Feeling that God is hiding

Ps 13:1-2 Feeling that God has forgotten you

Ps 39:12 Feeling that God is a stranger to you

Ps 42:3 "My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?'"

Spiritual Loneliness

- Doesn't go away quickly
- Isn't resolved by being in a crowd
- Can take us places that we don't want to go
- Can lead to us becoming angry with God and even walking away from God
- Can be one of the great tests of our faith



Mark 4:38-41 What we learn from Storms

1. Storms come (Mt 7:24-25; Jas 1:2-4)
2. Storms may last a long time
3. Great men get scared
4. Jesus is there even when we can't see Him
5. Faith makes all the difference
6. The storms eventually end
7. God is greater than the storms (1 Jn 4:4)



We must remember:

1. The God that we believed before the storm remains the same
2. God will be there after the storm passes
3. God is good
4. God hears you even though He doesn't answer
5. It is through the storm that our character and our hope shines the brightest (1 Pet 3:15)
6. Sometimes God sends help in ways that we do not expect (2 Cor 7:6)

Spiritual loneliness is conquered:

Through faith

Through understanding that God has not given up on you and is counting on you

Through undying Hope in the promises of God

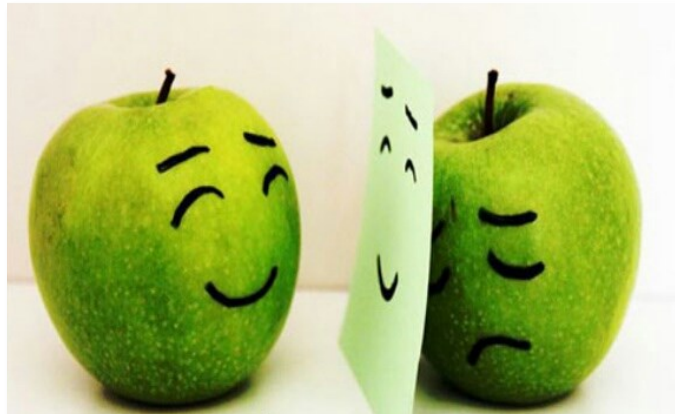
Through a belief that the sun will shine again

Through realizing that there are others who are walking with the Lord (1 Kings 19:18)

By refusing to listen to those who are not of God



Pain: family & friends (1)



An important study within the book of Job is his interaction with his friends.

The Conversations Among Friends:

- The dialogue among Job and his friends cover chapters 3-37
 - this is the longest "uninspired" inspiration in the Bible.
 - this section is longer than many N.T. books

Why does it matter what people say?
Why does God want us to hear all of this?

If we could look at Job's Medical Chart we would find:

Persistent itching
Ulcerated sores
Loss of appetite
Loss of weight
Continual pain
High fever
Discoloration of skin
Diarrhea
Darkened eyelids
Foul breath
Difficulty breathing
Disfiguration

Some have suggested:

Smallpox
Leprosy
Melanoma
Elephantiasis

One of the rawness and freshness of Job's first words (chapter 3) is that he is honest. He wishes that he wasn't alive. We have trouble being that honest with each other (James 5:16). This is especially true spiritually.

Masks That we Wear so Well

1. Smiles
2. Switching the subject
3. Leaving early
4. Avoiding people
5. Denial of any problem



1. Often we wear masks to hide how we truly feel

- We do this because we are embarrassed
- We do this because we think that's what people expect to see
- We do this because we do not think anyone will understand
- We do this because we are private
- We do this because we do not think anyone can help, cares, or, what they say will work
- We do this because we want to avoid a lecture from them
- We do this because we do not want people to see us cry
- We do this because we do not want to appear to have weak faith
- We do this because we do not want someone talking to the elders about us
- We do this because, like Job's friends, we fear that others will only make us feel worse, guilty or ashamed
- We do this because we feel that we are the only one with problems
- We do this because we think people won't like us if we told them how we truly feel
- We do this because we think people will talk about us
- We do this because we have had a bad experience in the past with people

Wearing Masks Leads To:

Suffering alone
Taking the opportunity away for others to pray and bear our burdens
Makes us jealous of others
Opens the door for other types of deception
Hides things from shepherds who want to help
Eventually messes with our faith and our relationship with God

It is interesting to note that Job's Friends:

1. Never offered to pray with Job
2. Never said, "I'm sorry for what you are going through."
3. Accused Job without knowing all the facts nor without listening to Job
4. Never invited Job to come home with them
5. Didn't seem to bring any soup, flowers or words of comfort
6. Never offered to rebuild his flock, loan him money or try to get Job back on his feet
7. Never volunteered to take Job to a doctor

What was missing was the element of kindness, gentleness and refreshing (Eph 4:32; 1 Cor 16:18)

How do we put down our masks?

- Realize that we are all on this journey together and we really need each other
- We all suffer in different ways
- Help may not be perfect and it may not solve things but it can help my spirit. Someone was thinking about me
- The fences my pride has built are not good
- How can I do for others when I refuse to let them do it to me
- Realize that the answers to my prayers and the help from God often comes through His people
- Love involves taking a risk
- Stop assuming the worst about others and give people a chance
- Understand that in many ways I am falsely judging the motives and intentions of my brethren

2. James 5:13-20

We find the emotions of suffering and cheerfulness

We find the responsibility of the hurting to reach out for help

We find the power of prayer

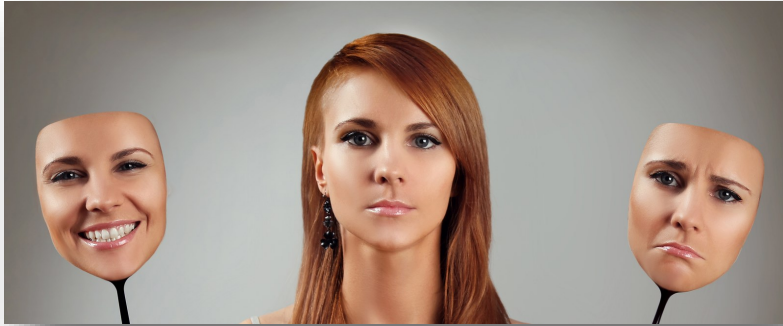
We find the honesty and openness of confession

We find God healing and forgiving

We can get upset with others because
We expect them to know when they don't

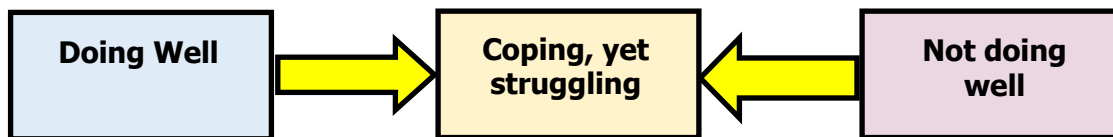


Pain: family & friends (2)



In our study last time we noted the massive amount of pages devoted to the discussions between Job and his friends. God wanted us to see this. All of this began by Job expressing how he honestly felt. He wished that he was never born (3:1). That honesty, rawness and openness is often missing among us. We tend to hide how we really feel by wearing masks.

There seems to be three areas of emotions that we express during difficult times. People try to move us to the middle box.



And when we are not in the middle box as others think we ought to be, we wear masks.

- Honesty is hard because it leaves us open, vulnerable, and often alone with our feelings
- Honesty is hard because some people would rather pretend everything is fine rather than deal with the reality of how things really are. This leads to deceiving ourselves
- Honesty is hard because it often shows that things are not working well
- Honesty reveals the truth that we all deal with difficulties in different ways, recover and move at different paces, and the depth of our faith plays a huge factor in all of this
- Honesty is hard because we live in a world and a culture in the church where wearing masks is expected
- The honest heart will do better with the Lord than the mask wearer

A. There are Four Expressions of Honesty in Job

1. Job: he wished that he was never born (10:1a)
2. Job's wife: she was tired of seeing him suffer (2:9)
3. Job's friends: they truly believed that Job was being punished for sins in his life
4. God: He saw the error of Job's friends



B. Marriage in the midst of Suffering (Job 2:9)

- One of the powerful secondary lessons in Job is the subject of marriage and suffering
- Job's wife speaks only two sentences in this book. She has the fewest words in the book.
 - Her words are honest. She is finished and ready to surrender.

In the course of our marriage we face many trials:

- Difficulties and stress of starting our careers
- Trials that come with raising children
- Challenges of jobs
- Church problems
- Issue of aging parents
- Death of parents, siblings, friends
- Our own failing health
- The reality of Heb 9:27

Because our faith levels are different and we handle difficulties differently, it is very easy for trials to become a major hit upon our marriages.

- this has even a greater impact when one in the marriage is not a Christian or weak in faith
- suffering in a marriage can lead to unpleasant words, impatient feelings, strained emotions and even the ending of a marriage

The temptation to wear masks even in our marriages is a very real problem.

- We can deny and refuse any help
- We can wait until it's too late to reach out for help
You can't wait until your boat is going over the waterfall to pray for oars
- We can be more concerned about image than honesty

Helping Your Spouse

1. Be present in their pain (Prov 17:17)
2. Listen
 - sometimes a person can't take off their masks, because we won't let them
 - don't try to solve everything
3. Pray together
4. Keep focused upon the Lord (Job 2:10)
5. Seek help together
6. Be patient. Healing takes time. You recover at different paces.
7. Give your spouse some space.
8. Realize that when you help your spouse, you are helping your marriage
9. Knowing that you are there to support and that together you will get through these things is great comfort. Express your love to each other. Their world may seem to be falling apart. They need something that they can hold on to.

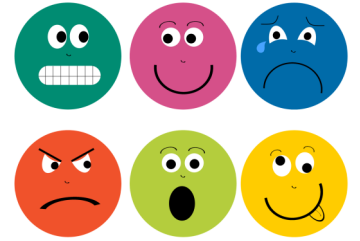
2. James 5:13-20

- We find the emotions of suffering and cheerfulness
We find the responsibility of the hurting to reach out for help
We find the power of prayer
We find the honesty and openness of confession
We find God healing and forgiving

We can get upset with others because
We expect them to know when they don't



Job & God: His Feelings

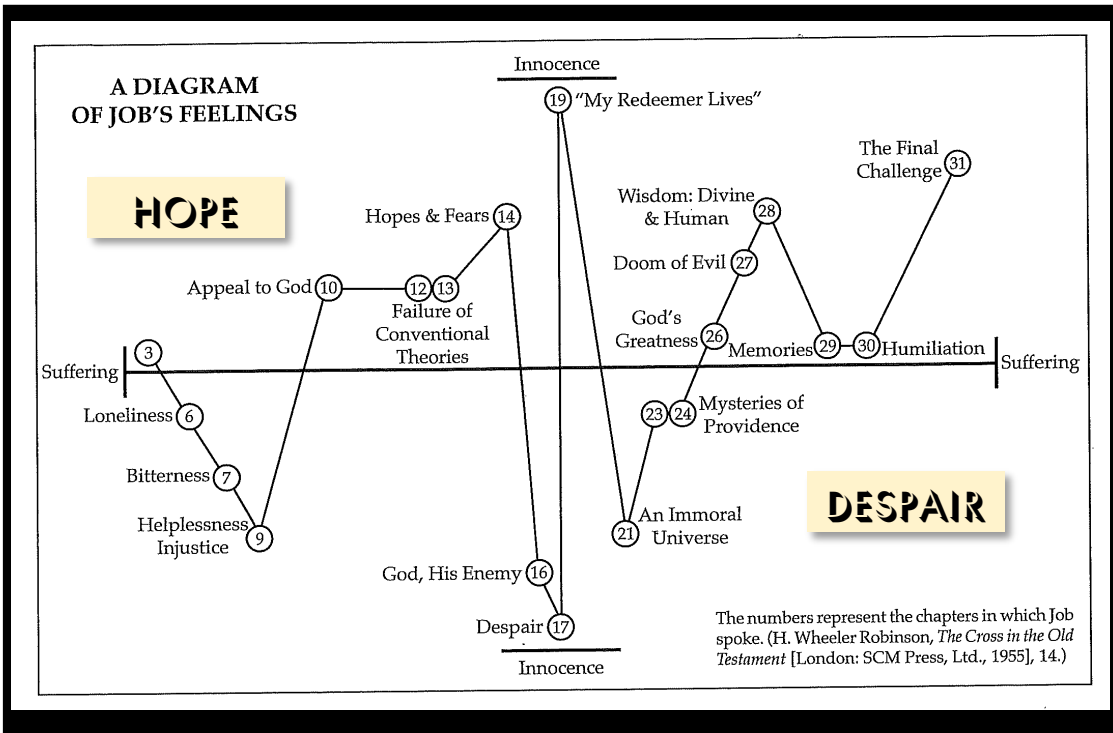


The study of Job involves more than just an observation of the external subjects such as Job's suffering and the dialogue with his friends. The text of Job takes us on the inside, to Job's feelings. One of the things we notice as the book progresses, is that Job's feelings are up and down. He moves from hope to despair and back to hope. Through this emotional journey, Job questions God, loves God and at times feels disappointed with God. This is a good lesson for us and for

learning how to deal with others.

For instance, the Job in chapter 17 is in a different place than the Job in chapter 19. Good days and bad days, and what caused these was not more suffering, but trying to find the answers he longed to know.

- This reveals to us that grief is a journey that includes ups and downs.



- This also reveals to us that someone may seem to be doing well today but later on they may be struggling.
- This is more than a diagram of Job's emotions. This maps out Job's faith. His faith moved with his feelings.

The Seven Stages of Grief

- Shock & denial
- Pain and guilt
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Working through
- Acceptance

- ▶ Not everyone goes through all 7 stages and not always in the same order
- ▶ Some stay in one stage longer than others
- ▶ Some never accept death

- Job was a great man of faith. He worshipped immediately following the death of his children (1:20-22). His up and down journey with God was based upon his knowledge, faith and personal feelings.

Can a person be disappointed with God?

A. The Jesus Difference

This is something that Job did not have
- there are no references to a coming Messiah in Job

Because of this difference, we have hope, answers and assurance

Job and Jesus Similarities

Blameless
Suffered innocently
Satan tried to crush
God allowed
People falsely accused

Job Said:

"There is no umpire between us, who may lay his hand upon us both" (9:33)



"For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 2:5)

Job Said:

"Hast Thou eyes of flesh? Or dost Thou see as a man sees?" (10:4)



"Therefore, He had to made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (Heb 2:17; also 4:15)

Job Said:

"If a man dies, will he live again?" (14:14)



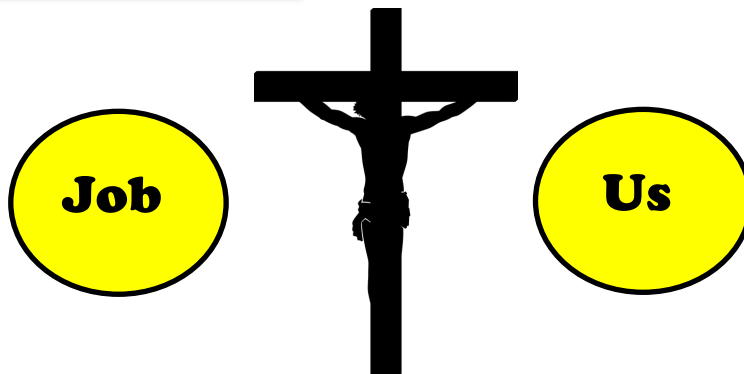
"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus" (1 Thes 4:14)

Job Said:

"God hands me over to ruffians, and tosses me into the hands of the wicked" (16:11)



"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us who is against us?" (Rom 8:31; also 8:35, 38-39)



Many of our friends are beyond Job. This explains why they react the way they do to suffering.

The Jesus Difference

- God has proven His love for us by the Cross (Rom 5:8)
- Jesus has promised to take us to His Father's home (Jn 14:2-3)
- We will be raised one day (1 Cor 15:21-24)
- Our lives will not collapse if we build a foundation upon Christ (Mt 7:24-25)
- What we experience here is nothing compared to what awaits us (2 Cor 4:17-18)
- We long to be with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8)
- We are given pictures of the faithful rewarded in Heaven (Rev 7:9-17)
- God welcomes us to come to Him (Heb 4:16)

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil" (Heb 6:19)

Job & God: the Lord Speaks



After Job's three friends have ended their speeches (Zophar only has two speeches), Job concludes his final words to his friends. The text states, "The words of Job are ended" (31:40b). It is at this point that the younger Elihu speaks for the first time. He is angry. He is angry with Job and with the three friends. His speech is long (32:6-37:24). No one responds to Elihu.

It is at this point that God speaks to Job for the first time (38-41)

- I will ask and you instruct Me (38:3; 40:7)**
- Where were you (38:4): I was there
 - Have you ever in your life (38:12): Yes
 - You know (38:21): I do
 - Have you understood (38:18): I do
 - Can you (38:31, 32, 34; 39:10): I can
 - Do you know (39:1): I do
 - Is it by your understanding (39:26): Yes

God has two speeches

First one: 38-39

Second one: 40-41

God has the last word: 42

- ▶ God didn't say anything about Satan
- ▶ God didn't say that Job did a good job through all of this
- ▶ God didn't say anything about things getting better
- ▶ God didn't give Job a pass for what he said

A. God asks Job a series of 64 questions

Creation (Heb 11:3)

- formation of the universe (38:4-7)
- formation of oceans (38:8-11, 16-17)
- formation of a day (38:12-15)
- formation light (38:19)

Weather (38:22-30)

Stars (38:31-33)

Clouds and rain (38:34-38)

Feeding lions and ravens (38:39-41)

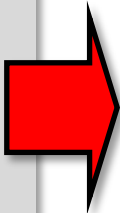
The Animal world:

- mountain goat (39:1-4)
- wild donkey (39:5-8)
- ox (39:9-12)
- ostrich (39:13-18)
- horse (39:19-25)
- hawk & eagle (39:26-30)

1. God chose things that are observable and known to Job
 - ▶ this would include the beast (Behemoth) 40:15-24
 - ▶ Leviathan (41)
2. God chose things from the visible natural world
3. The answers to these questions reveal the power, eternity and position of God
4. These questions reveal man's limited understanding of physical things.
5. These questions show God's care for the world and all things in it

As tough as these questions may seem to be, they are just surface questions.

God could have asked:
How do you make colors?



What's the difference between a hawk and an eagle?

How do you make a horse different from a donkey?

How do you make different tastes?

As science has advanced, has our answers to God's questions improved?

B. Job responds after the first round of questions (40:1-5)

Job recognizes that he cannot answer these questions

Job realizes that he has said too much already

1. God continues (40:6-11)

Job is told to gird himself up like a man

Job is rebuked for trying to annul the judgment of God

Job is reminded that he is not like God (40:9)

Job is told to deal with the proud (40:12-14)

2. Two more exhibits are presented

(a) The Behemoth (40:15-24)

Can you capture him?

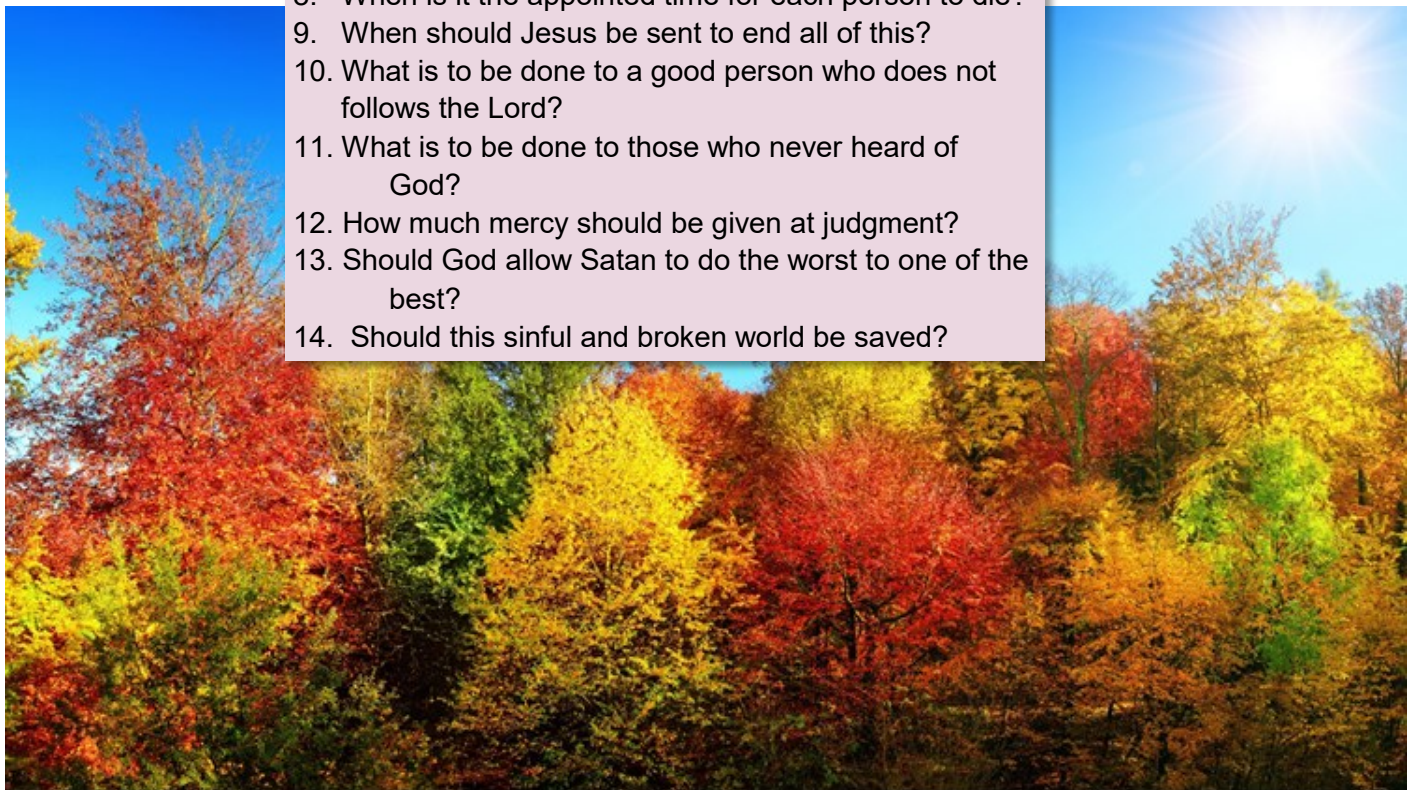
(b) The Leviathan (41)

Can you subdue him?

These things showed that Job neither understood, nor was in the position, nor had the qualities of holiness to be able to address the deeper things in life.

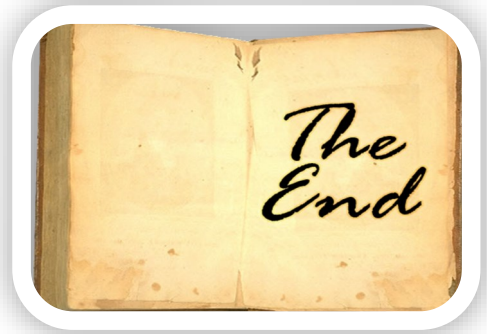
What God Does Not Address Are the Great Moral Questions:

1. Should the wicked be blessed?
2. How much time should be given to one to repent?
3. Should a wicked person be forgiven?
4. Do you allow free-will even if it hurts the innocent and blasphemes God's name?
5. Do you stop the spread of error?
6. Which prayers ought to be answered?
7. How do you influence people to do right without forcing them or buying their commitment?
8. When is it the appointed time for each person to die?
9. When should Jesus be sent to end all of this?
10. What is to be done to a good person who does not follow the Lord?
11. What is to be done to those who never heard of God?
12. How much mercy should be given at judgment?
13. Should God allow Satan to do the worst to one of the best?
14. Should this sinful and broken world be saved?



How the Book Ends

The book of Job ends with Job showing his humility towards God. There were several lessons learned about God in this section.



Lessons Learned:

A. Job saw God in a way he never has before

- God can do all things
- No purpose of God can be stopped

B. Job saw himself in a way he never has before

Job twice quotes God and answers God

1. (42:3) NIV: "You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?'
This is a quote from 38:2
Job's answer: I said things that I didn't understand
2. (42:4) NIV: "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you and you shall answer me'
This is a quote from 38:3
Job's answer: I have heard about you, but now my eyes see (5)
3. This led Job to change

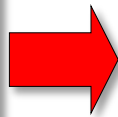
What's the difference?

- NAS: I retract and I repent in dust and ashes (6)

God never explained why He allowed Job to suffer
God never apologized for putting Job through all this pain
Job may never have understood why these things happened

The Yancey Mistake

Author Philip Yancey in his classic book "Disappointment with God," states, "One bold message in the book of Job is that you can say anything to God. Throw at him your grief, your anger, your doubt, your bitterness, your betrayal, your disappointment—he can absorb them all...you can't deny your feeling or make them disappear, so you might as well express them. God can deal with every human response save one. He cannot abide the response...to ignore him or treat him as though he does not exist" (pg 235)



This conclusion

- Ignores the position and the holiness of God
- Fails to see the volume of questions that God asked Job and why He asked them
- Forgets that God never answered any of Job's questions
- Ignores the response of Job to God
- Assumes that our feelings are accurate and justified (Jonah 4:4)
- Fails to appreciate how Job changed his view about God
- Allows a person to shout, scream and even cuss at God. Getting it out of our system may make us feel good, but this is not Biblical nor righteous

If it is true that we cannot deny our feelings, what then should we do with them?

Lev 10:3b "By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored."

C. Job's friends learned that they were wrong (42:7-9)

God Speaks to the Three Friends (42:7-9)

1. God uses the expression, "My servant Job" 4x in vs. 7-8
2. God speaks to Eliphaz only
 - he was the first to speak
 - he was to tell Zophar and Bildad this message
 - nothing is said about Elihu



- (a) God was angry with them because they were wrong about God (7)
- (b) God demanded burnt offerings from them (8)
- (c) God wanted Job to pray for them (8)

This is one of the great lessons in the Bible. What do we do when we discover that what we thought was right, isn't.

- ▶ 1 Thes 1:9
- ▶ Acts 9:1-9
- ▶ Acts 19:19

This discovery comes from the word of God. It's not based upon feelings, people or convenience

- (1) A person can continue on in error because he likes it
- (2) A person's pride can blind him to the truth
- (3) A person can courageously change

Conclusion:

The final eight (8) verses in Job answers the question, "I wonder whatever happened to Job?" Without this conclusion we are left to wonder if he ever got back on his feet again.

1. God doubled the number of animals (12)
2. God gave Job the exact number of children and in the same combination
 - (14) very unusual to the times, Job's three daughters are named

1. The implication is that Mrs. Job stayed with Job
2. It seems that God has returned the hedges around Job
3. Although the suffering seems to end, the journey of faith wasn't over
 - there would be further trials, temptations and tests of faith
4. The endurance or steadfastness of Job is used as an illustration in James
 - be patient (Jas 5:7)
 - do not complain (Jas 5:9)
 - pattern to follow when suffering (Jas 5:13-16)

Not Everyone Has a "Happily Ever After" Conclusion to Their trials:

1. This is not an indication of God's unhappiness
2. The book of Job has taught us that we do not understand all things
3. The doubling of Job's prosperity is only temporary. Our true treasure is in Heaven.
4. The story of Job is not about what do I get after this is over, but what has become of me because of these things.

Satan was proven wrong. Job never cursed God to His face.



The Job Examples

As important, large and old that the book of Job is, there are only two places his name is found elsewhere in Scriptures. His name is not found in Hebrews 11. Jesus never refers to Job. The apostles never make any connections back to the book of Job. However, the two places his name is found reveals great examples for us.

Ezekiel 14:12-20

A. The Lord presents a series of possible judgments upon the nation

- famine (13)
- wild beasts (15)
- sword (17)
- plague (19)

"If I" send:

B. God was using the example of these three righteous men to illustrate that even they could not save the nation. There was no hope for the nation.

1. The nation was beyond the point of return.
2. From this we see:
 - how important righteousness is to God

- Ps 1:6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous
- Ps 5:12 For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O Lord, you surround him with favor as with a shield
- Ps 11:5 The Lord tests the righteous

Ps 15 Who can dwell in God's holy hill?

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Walks with integrity | Speaks the truth |
| Works righteousness | Does good to others |

Noah, Daniel & Job (14, 16, 18, 20)

- Noah & Job are from the Patriarchal section of the Bible (Genesis)
- Daniel was alive in Babylon when Ezekiel was written
- All three had their faith tested
- All three were declared to be "righteous" by God

- ▶ Blessed are those who hunger for righteousness (Mt 5:6)
- ▶ The righteous live by faith (Rom 1:17)
- ▶ Seek first God's righteousness (Mt 6:33)
- ▶ Pursue righteousness (1 Tim 6:11)
- ▶ Scriptures are profitable for training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16)
- ▶ Anger does not achieve the righteousness of God (Jas 1:20)

- righteousness is a characteristic of God (Ps 11:7)
- only God declares someone to be righteous
- righteousness is what we are on the inside
- righteousness is illustrated by "right" thinking, "right" talking, and, "right" living
- righteousness can influence others

- We never know ahead of time what is going to happen
- A vertical perspective will keep you from a horizontal crisis
- Ps 121:1
- Steadfast faithfulness is the crowning mark of maturity

Job was considered Righteous

He never lost his perspective
 He never gave up on God
 He didn't allow the doubts of others to defeat him
 He continued to be "right" even when it was difficult

Charles Stanley: *"There is nothing worse than a life filled with adversity from which nothing good ever comes. If our priorities are ease, comfort and pleasure, we will have little tolerance for adversity."*

Job was a "blameless and upright man" before he was tested. Job was a worshipper and a man of faith.

- What would Job's trials do to someone who didn't believe?

James 5:7-16

1. James is addressing the "coming of the Lord" (7, 8, 9)

James Lays Four Principles Before the Brethren

(a) Be Patient (7)

- the farmer (7)
- the prophets (10)
- Job (11)

(b) Do not complain (9)

(c) Do not swear (12)

(d) Be spiritual in every situation you face (12-16)

We count blessed those who endured
We have heard of the endurance of Job
We have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings

Four similar Biblical Words:

Patience Endurance Steadfastness Long Suffering

How do these words differ?

- ☐ 1 Cor 13:4 Love is patient
- ☐ 1 Thes 5:14 Be patient with all men

Patience is more than just having to wait

It is the ability to endure without being changed, becoming unglued, bothered or upset. Patience is carrying on as we have.

1. Sometimes the darkness lasts a long time
2. Sometimes God's silence makes us wonder
3. Sometimes others quit before we are ready to
4. Sometimes quitting seems very tempting and more comfortable than enduring
5. Endurance is the ability to look beyond the immediate to the goal or the end (2 Cor 4:18)

- Patience is a quality of God (2 Pet 3:9)

How does righteousness and endurance fit together?

Helping You to Endure

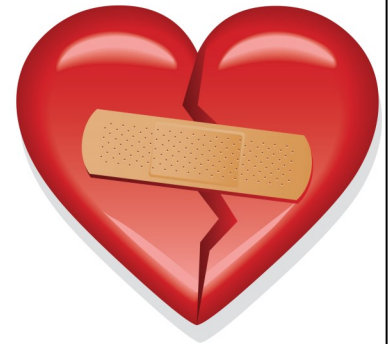
- Think of others who have endured
- Realize that others are watching
- Remember Jesus (Heb 12:1-4; 1 Pet 2:21-23)
- Realize that the Lord is with you (Ps 23:4)



Hymns Help: Thinking about these words reminds us of Biblical Promises and Truths

*Hold to God's unchanging hand
Safe in the arms of Jesus
We shall see the King someday
Does Jesus care? Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief
We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion
Won't it be wonderful there
Master the tempest is raging
Farther along, we'll know all about it; farther along, we'll understand why
It is well with my soul
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, because He lives, all fear is gone*

Helping the Hurting



In all studies of God's word, there are layers and layers of lessons to be seen. The most important lesson is the purpose of the passage and what it was intended to say. But, we must look beyond just the obvious and see that there are other things to be learned. These "other" lessons build character, challenges us and takes us to greater levels of faith.

Such is the case with the book of Job. The obvious lessons are about God and faith. But there are many layers of other lessons, including suffering, Satan, weathering storms. Within these layers comes the lesson of "Helping the hurting."

The pop group Bee Gees sang a song about breaking up. The song, "*How do you mend a broken heart,*" says in the chorus: "*And how can you mend a broken heart? How can you stop the rain from falling down...Please help me mend my broken heart and let me live again.*" That presents a great question before us, "**How do you mend a broken heart?**" How do you help the hurting?

Common Responses When People Hurt

1. Withdrawal
2. Blame
3. Anger
4. Bitterness
5. Faithlessness
6. Despair

Pain tends to bring out the worst in our behavior, attitudes and words

A. God calls upon His people to Help others

- 1 Thes 5:14 help the weak
- Rom 12:15 weep with those that weep
- 1 Thes 4:18 comfort one another
- Gal 6:2 bear one another's burdens
- 2 Cor 7:6 encourage the depressed
- James 5:16 pray for one another

We Understand:

1. There are different levels of pain
 - a teenager who was "dumped" by someone they were dating does not have the same pain as a parent who has buried a child
 - not making the team is not the same pain as being told you have cancer
2. All pain hurts
3. Often, especially with grief, things get worse before they get better
4. The emotional, mental and spiritual aspects of pain can hurt more and last longer than the physical side does
5. The neglect, harshness and cruelty of others can extend the pain and make things worse
6. Often in pain one does not think, talk nor act logically, Biblically or reasonably
7. The family is in pain as well as the person who is suffering
8. The amount of faith in one's heart will set the course on how one responds and how he deals with his pain



B. We are called upon to help people when they are at their worst and lowest points

1. It takes some tough skin to do this because people are likely to say mean and ugly things. Even if what they say is untrue, it still hurts
2. There are no fast lanes to get around the journey through the valleys
3. Some do not want to see any lessons to be learned. They just want things to return to normal
4. Often the most that we can offer is our time, heart and words of Scriptures. We can't fix everything.
5. Many situations are more complicated than what we can handle or understand
6. Wrong advice is worse than no advice



- Guard your words and use them carefully (Prov 25:11)
- Hurting people are more interested in telling you their pain than they are listening to what you have to say
- Realize there is a right time and a right way to address questions that are asked
- Don't be afraid to say the tough stuff, especially spiritually
- Don't invite yourself into a conversation that you are not welcome to
- Don't be the expert in all things. You are not.
- Understand what you offer are merely Band-Aids to open wounds. Your words today may be forgotten and they may have to be repeated over and over
- The big picture is the salvation of the soul. Helping someone through their physical pain is good, but helping them spiritually is more important

Jesus forgave the crippled man before He healed his legs (Lk 5:20)

- Don't make promises that you cannot keep
- There is a thin line between helping and enabling. Recognize that and be careful
- Pray. Pray often. Pray for the hurting person. Pray with the hurting person
- Be there. Your presence often speaks louder than your words.

A Word About Conflicts

Job and his friends conversations are seen more as debates than causal talking. Arguments and conflicts are a part of life. They happen in the home, at work, in politics and even in the church.

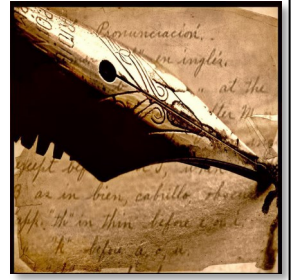
Everyone has an opinion and everyone thinks their opinion is usually right. Shouting doesn't prove your point. "No one is killed by thunder, it's the lightning that does the damage."

Some thoughts about Conflicts:

1. Get the facts first (don't assume)
2. Check your attitude
3. Stick to the matter at hand
4. Try to be calm
5. Listen to the other person
6. Try not to interrupt
7. Don't throw darts at one's character
8. Don't let the conflict ruin a friendship
9. Remember Jesus' example (1 Pet 2:21-23)



What We Learn from Job



As we near the end of this study, the value of all of this comes from what we have learned not only about the book, but about ourselves, faith and God. Our studies of God's word are more than academic. Paul reminded Timothy of some who were "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of truth" (2 Tim 3:7). Bible study is more than book learning. It's a life changing and a life challenging journey. The study of God's word ought to lead to a deeper and stronger faith (Rom 10:17) that will be able to endure the storms of life (Mt 7:25). A study of God's word should lead us to becoming more and more like Jesus (Rom 8:29). Our faith is strengthened and our character is molded through a study of God's word.

In this lesson we want to consider some lessons that we ought to learn from a study of Job

Job wasn't the only person to question God. We find similar thoughts in the Psalms:

10:1 Why dost Thou stand afar off, O Lord? Why dost Thou hide Thyself in times of trouble?
13:1 How long, O Lord? Wilt Thou forget me forever? How long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me?
42:9 I will say to God my rock, 'Why hast Thou forgotten me?
44:24 Why dost Thou hide Thy face, and forget our affliction and our oppression?
55:1, 2a Give ear to my prayer, O God; and do not hide Thyself from my supplication. Give heed to me, and answer me..."

- Unlike the book of Job, God does not answer the Psalmist
- Sometimes in pain we forget about other Scriptures and what we ought to know
- Our journey is by faith (2 Cor 5:7). Faith is relied upon the most when we sense God's absence

James 1:2-4 "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trial; knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete,

1. The child of God views trials and difficulties differently than a person of the world
2. The child of God realizes that trials and difficulties can have positive results in his character
3. The child of God understands that some things are only produced through tough times
4. The child of God knows that he does not endure these trials alone

Life Lessons from the book of Job

Life Lessons from the book of Job

Life Lessons from the book of Job

Life Lessons from the book of Job

A Dozen Lessons To Be Learned:



1. What we see with our eyes often doesn't tell the complete story
- with Job there were things that happened behind the scene and before his suffering that he didn't know about

2. The goodness of God isn't based upon how joyous or blessed our lives are
- God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart! (Ps 73:1)
 - God is good even if my life isn't

3. Others are thinking about you without you even realizing it
- What was God thinking about Job?
 - What was Satan thinking about Job?

There are prayers going up for us that we never know about. God is doing things in our lives because someone else prayed for us

- Shepherds, parents, mates, children, friends, brethren are mentioning our name to Heaven

4. Knowing the cause or the reason of our pain doesn't lessen the hurt.
- It may add to it

5. Our suffering will seem like nothing when we reach the other side (Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17)

6. People often do not understand, nor do they know how to comfort

7. What happens to us on the outside does not have to set the tone for what my insides are like (2 Cor 4:16)

8. Suffering can be the best thing to happen to me, if it brings me to God

- This is true of the prodigal (Luke 15)
- For Job, it allowed him to see God in ways he had never before

9. Suffering will ruin a man who does not have his foundation built upon Christ (Mt 7:27)

10. God is always right

- When life and God's word collide, we must rethink and take another look at life.

11. We cannot allow what we do to be determined by "how we feel"

- Job worshipped God after his children died (1:20,22)
- there will be times when we "do not feel" like doing what we ought to do

12. Pain, suffering, and trouble eventually ends. What then?

WHAT I have
LEARNED

Great is God



The surpassing lesson in the book of Job is God. This is a book about God. And, one deep question the book answers is that God is worthy to be worshipped, followed and trusted, even if all the blessings in my life are removed. God is worthy.

Job declared: “And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes shall see...” (Job 19:25-27a)

1. Job’s words are echoed centuries later by the apostles Paul (2 Tim 1:12) and John (Rev 22:4)
2. With the bottom falling out of Job’s life, he still could declare “I know that my Redeemer lives.”

What we need to remember about God:

A. God is good

1. He has been good to us
 - He has been good to bless us
 - He has been good to forgive us
 - He has been patient with us
 - He has made great promises to us
2. He has been good to this church
 - He has given us strength, growth and ability
 - He has provided experienced leaders
 - He has kept us together
3. He has been good to this country
 - He has allowed us to have freedoms that others only dream about
 - He has been patient with us
 - He has shown us His creative hand in so many wonderful ways

How should we respond to this?

B. God is faithful (Lam 3:23)

1. He will keep His promises (2 Pet 3:9)
- ### What is still to come?
2. He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able (1 Cor 10:13)
 - God will provide a way of escape (1 Cor 10:13)
 3. He will never desert you (Heb 13:5)
 4. He will come for us (Jn 14:3)
 5. He has revealed all things that we need to know (Jn 15:15)
 6. He hears us (1 Jn 5:15)

C. God knows you

1. He knows what you need physically (Mt 6:8)
2. He knows the hairs of your head (Mt 10:30)
3. He knows your heart and your sins (Ps 90:8; Heb 4:13)
4. He knows that you need guidance and direction (Mt 9:36)
5. He knows that you are capable of doing what He says (Mt 7:24)
6. He knows that we need Him spiritually (Acts 17:17; Rom 1:19-20)

God knew that Job would not curse Him

D. God loves you (Jn 3:16)

1. He loves us even when we do not think about Him
2. He loves us even when we disobey Him
3. He wants the best for us (Rom 8:28)
4. He loves us even after He knows us

E. God will do everything He can to save you

1. He will expose you to His word (Rom 1:16)
2. He will put people in your life to remind you
3. He will allow you to be shaken to the core to wake you up
4. He will introduce you to living examples for you to imitate (Heb 13:7; 1 Pet 5:3)
5. He will answer your prayers (Acts 10:31)

What God Cannot and Will Not Do:

1. Force you against your will
2. Violate His own word and will
3. Miraculously give you signs (Lk 16:27-28)
4. Let you live as you please and then save you without faith or obedience
5. Give you another chance after death

