

Title: Job - Strength in Suffering

Scripture Reading: Job 1-2

Introduction:

- I. The role of pain and suffering in our lives -
 - A. **Genesis 3:16-19** - "...Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; **For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.**"
 1. What would it be like to live without pain? - How would we know...
 2. The perfect state of God's creation was lost - the process of decay brought with it the traumas of disease and debilitation, but not without hope - **Romans 8:20**
 - B. Our greatest reminder of life's transitory state is pain and anguish - **Romans 8:18-19, 28-30**
- II. Purpose of our study:
 - A. Job's life serves as a prime example of strength under suffering.

Body:

- I. The challenge of Job's faith -
 - A. "There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job..." -
 1. The description of Job -
 - a. **v. 1** - "blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil"
 - b. **v. 2** - The Jew's perception of children - blessing from God
 - c. **v. 3** - Job's immense wealth
 - d. **v. 5** - A father who cared deeply for his children's spiritual lives
 - B. "Does Job fear God for nothing?" - The challenge between God and Satan
 1. The Lord protects His faithful, but He also allows them to be tested - **Luke 12:48b**
 - C. Every support is torn away from Job - In what does man place his trust?
 1. **1:14-17** - His material wealth - cf. **Matthew 6:19**
 2. **1:13, 18-19** - His children -
 3. **2:4-8** - His physical health - cf. **Luke 12:16-21**
 4. **2:9** - His wife - "Curse God and die!"
 5. **2:11** - His friends - Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar
 - a. **2:12-13** - Seven days and seven nights suffering along side their friend
 - 1) If only these three men would have kept their mouths closed!
 - b. The three friends' accusations against Job -
 - 1) **8:2-7** - Bildad's conclusion to Job's suffering
 - 2) **11:4-6** - Zophar accuses Job of sin
 - 3) **15:4-6** - Eliphaz condemns Job's language
 - D. Who else does Job have to lean upon? Everything and everyone has abandoned him?
 - II. Job's reliance upon God -
 - A. The marveling strength of Job -
 1. **1:20-22** - "²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ He said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.'" ²² **Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.**"
 - a. Job was able to look beyond the present conditions - "...I shall return there."
 - 1) **19:25-27** - "²⁵ 'As for me, **I know that my Redeemer lives,** And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. ²⁶ 'Even after my skin is destroyed, **Yet from my flesh I shall see God;** ²⁷ Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!"

- b. An attitude of reverence toward God - “Blessed be the name of the Lord.”
 - 1) **13:15, 18** - “¹⁵ “Though He slay me, **I will hope in Him**. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him. ¹⁶ “This also will be my salvation, For a godless man may not come before His presence. ¹⁷ “Listen carefully to my speech, And let my declaration *fill* your ears. ¹⁸ “Behold now, I have prepared my case; **I know that I will be vindicated**.”
 - 2) **16:19** - “¹⁹ “Even now, behold, **my witness is in heaven**, And my advocate is on high.”
- 2. **2:10** - “¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?” **In all this Job did not sin with his lips.**”
 - a. “Shall we accept good...and not accept adversity?” - The wisdom of Job
 - b. “In all this Job did not sin with his lips.” - How easily Job could have focused on himself and not the ONE who stood with him - **Hebrews 13:5-6**.
- B. Job’s greatest struggle - “Why would God allow a righteous man suffer?”
 - 1. Difficult statements of Job - **9:21-24; 10:18-20; 19:6**
 - 2. Job’s appeal to God for answers - **23:3-12**
- C. The Lord’s answer to Job’s question -
 - 1. The Lord called Job forth - The Lord is vindicated from injustice - 38:1-3; 40:1-2
 - 2. Job repented of his arguments - 42:1-6

Conclusion:

- I. Will a similar faith be found in me? - Will I put all my trust in God?
 - A. The momentary afflictions of this life - 2 Corinthians 4:17
 - B. Our source of strength in suffering - Psalm 119:71
- II. Suffering is inevitable - How will I react to it in my life?

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