

Job Lesson 2 | Job 3-13 | 6/9/13

- Job Review
 - Last week we took a hard look at Job's character we saw that he was a man of perfect integrity, he feared God and turned away from evil.
 - This description wasn't by Job himself or another man but by God himself.
 - So we are absolutely certain that this was true.
 - However Job the man who had not wronged God and was innocent was getting ready to suffer.
 - Job was put to a test because Satan felt that the only reason why Job was that way was because God had blessed him. Satan said take everything away and he would curse God.
 - We saw that this didn't happen and that regardless of losing everything his wealth, health and children that he never turned from God.
 - He maintained his integrity and never cursed God.
 - So the question that Job is dealing with now is WHY. Why am I suffering if I didn't do anything wrong? Of course we know that Job wasn't aware of the test and discussions going on with God and Satan.
 - **Job's situations are no different than for us when we have adversity or we suffer. We may not know the exact reason why we are going through what we are and we will ask the same question why.**
- Biblical reasons for Suffering
 - There are numerous biblical reasons for suffering in the Bible. Sometimes we know when the suffering is caused when we have obviously done something to cause it. But in cases like Job where he didn't do anything wrong it is a mystery of God.
 - Judgment- God will at times inflict judgment because of disobedience and sin like Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Genesis 19:13
 - "for we are about to destroy this place because the outcry against its people is so great before the Lord, that the Lord has sent us to destroy it"
 - Discipline-Some suffering is for correction which can lead to repentance
 - Hebrews 11:5-6
 - "And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly or faint when you are reproved by Him, for the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives.
 - Hebrews 11:11
 - No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
 - Necessity- Christ suffered for us because it was a necessity.
 - 1 Peter 3:18
 - "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God, after being put to death in the fleshly realm."
 - **Did Christ do anything wrong? Did he commit sin? Did he need to learn from his mistakes?** No he didn't, Jesus died on the Cross for a purpose his suffering was for our benefit, that he might bring us to God.
- Lesson's learned from suffering
 - (Compare to work)
 - Our spiritual character or our soul may need those specific sufferings for proper development.
 - We know we learn from our trials, which can cause us to suffer.

- So there are cases where our spiritual character is developed because of those sufferings, as hard as that can be do fully understand at times, especially when in the thick of it.
 - Proper punishment of the heart, even for things we are not aware of.
 - Perhaps sins that we are not aware of like pride, self-confidence, ambition or reputation.
 - We may “think” we have nothing to fix that we are perfect, but God knows our heart and while you may abstain from sins of the physical nature like stealing or murder, but your heart may not be where it needs to be
 - There are plenty of sins than can be committed by our thoughts and our heart.
 - Lust, greed or envy etc.,
 - Teach true submission to God
 - The true place of release for a sinner is not the grave (as that leads to an eternity of torment) but the forgiving mercy of God and by the path way to heaven been granted by the bloodshed on the cross by Jesus.
 - Heaven is the true release from all our suffering that we as Christians WILL get to experience for eternity
 - Our sufferings can lead us to fully submit to God.
 - **Based on your experiences in life, has any of these biblical reasons for suffering applied to you?**
 - **Have any of these “lessons learned” applied to you?**
- The problems with advice based on assumptions.
 - There can be misconceptions when someone has something go wrong in their lives. The statement that if something bad happens to you then you must have done something wrong to deserve it isn’t always true or the way that God works. We just looked a different biblical reason for suffering.
 - If you were to be in a bad car accident or you lost a loved one, for someone on the outside to say well **what did you do to cause that that?** You must have done a great sin against God to have received that punishment.
 - **Like Rick Warren losing his son would it be right for us to say well he must have deserved it?**
 - **I would venture to guess that we all have at one time or another thought well that bad thing happened to so and so because they deserved it.**
 - We naturally want to find the root problem to our sufferings, but we must realize that it is impossible for us to always find the answer.
 - Sure in some cases it may seem obvious because of discipline because God has shown that to you but there will be many times that you may not figure it out.
 - As we will see with Job God may not let us in on the big picture right away.
 - Our efforts will prove futile and quite frankly they are irrelevant.
 - **When you have suffered was the question “What caused this, or what did I do” go through your mind? ←For me I look at my past sufferings and I believe they are mostly self-inflicted wounds and they are discipline or correction from God.**
 - **What are explanations we hear from a Christian regarding a tragic situation?**
 - **What are explanation we hear from non-Christians regarding a tragic situation?**
 - Today we will examine three different viewpoints from Job’s friends as to the reason for his suffering.
 - Voice of Justice
 - Voice of Tradition
 - Voice of Logic
- Job emotional breakdown (Job 3:1-13)
 - **Read Job 3:1-13**
 - Job has an emotional breakdown because of his intense suffering.

- Between losing his wealth, children and health he is in a very bad position.
- Job's speech come down to "I'd be better off dead than suffering all this trouble"
- Job's friends.
 - Job's friends make some assumptions based on different points of view as to why Job is suffering, the advice they gave wasn't exactly wrong as these reasons are true in certain circumstances but they don't apply to Job. They made assumptions on Job's character because he was suffering.
 - Voice of Justice-Eliphaz [El-ih-faz] the Temanite [Tee-mun-ite] (Job 4:6-9)
 - Eliphaz speaks (Job 4:6-9)
 - **Read Job 4:6-9**
 - Eliphaz was the council of Justice. He took the point of view that Job's suffering was because he was being punished.
 - Eliphaz reminded Job that he had helped others before by showing them what they were doing that was wrong.
 - Job 4:3-4
 - "Indeed, you have instructed many and have strengthened weak hands. Your words have steadied the one who was stumbling and braced the knees that were buckling"
 - Job had obviously been a counselor for others and helping them see what they are doing that is wrong.
 - So Eliphaz is telling Job that well now this has happened to you, you have wronged God, because when has the honest been destroyed? So obviously Job must have done something wrong.
 - Surely Job had received what he deserved, since God is always just.
 - **Eliphaz figured Job was just in denial.**
 - This counsel sounds wise but unfortunately it doesn't apply to Job because he was a man of perfect integrity, who feared God and turned away from evil.
 - God's description of Job rules this out.
 - Job responds to Eliphaz (Job 6:2-3)
 - **Read Job 6:2-3**
 - "If only my grief could be weighed and my devastation placed with it in the scales. For then it would outweigh the sand of the seas! That is why my words are rash."
 - Job tells Eliphaz that the reason he blew up and went out about his suffering and wanting to die was because it was emotional and not rational.
 - **Has anyone here ever blew up with an emotional and not rational response?**
 - Job then informs Eliphaz that he had done nothing wrong and that he needed to reconsider his accusation or assumption that he had done something wrong.
 - Job 6:10
 - "It would still bring me comfort, and I would leap for joy in unrelenting pain that I have not denied the words of the Holy One."
 - Job has openly and boldly made a profession to God.
 - He has not denied what God has wanted from him.
 - In fact he knew that If God did cut him off right then that he had done What God wanted of him, he was that confident!
 - **Could we be that confident to know that if we died today that we have done what God wanted from us?**

- Job 6:28-30
 - “But now, please look at me; would I lie to your face? Reconsider; don’t be unjust. Reconsider; my righteousness is still the issue. Is there injustice on my tongue or can my palate not taste disaster?”
 - Job said they he is not playing the role of the hypocrite, that if they would look upon him they would be convinced that he was a sincere and an upright man.
 - Job asks God to show him what he did wrong forgive him IF he had sinned and wasn’t aware
 - Job 7:20-21
 - “If I have sinned, what have I done to you, watcher of mankind? Why have you made me your target, so that I have become a burden to You? Why not forgive my sin and pardon my transgression? For soon I will lie down in the grave. You will eagerly seek me, but I will be gone.
 - **This discussion between these two brings up a question for us, have we ever criticized anyone without knowing the facts? Especially regarding to suffering.**
 - **Or have you been criticized by someone who didn’t know the facts? Did non-Christian friends chastise your beliefs?**
- Voice of Tradition- Bildad [*Bill-dad*] the Shuhite [*Shoe-hite*] (Job 8:4-8)
 - **Read Job 8:4-8**
 - Bildad like Eliphaz believed Job’s adversity was a result of sin against God.
 - In this case he said it was because his children deserved it because they had obviously sinned against God.
 - Bildad also suggested that Job’s sin wasn’t severe enough yet for God to kill him so if he repented and asked for forgiveness that God might spare him.
 - Bildad’s statement of asking God for mercy is true but it certainly wasn’t true that his children died because of their sins.
 - In verse 6 he told Job that if he was pure and upright that God would restore him, which is ironic as that is how God already described him.
 - So Bildad went with the approach of tradition which was that God punished evildoers and accepted those that did what was right.
 - This is good biblical advice to seek God for mercy, repent turn yourself around. But again...this doesn’t apply to Job.
- Voice of Logic –Zophar the Naamathite [*Nay-uh-muth-ite*] (Job 11:1-6,13-15)
 - Lastly we hear from Zophar who just got done listening to Job’s response to Bildad which was similar to his previous one where Job stated that he is innocent and has not sinned.
 - Zophar seems to be mad at this point because he thinks that Job is basically lying and is not being truthful, so he says this:
 - **Read Job 11:1-6**
 - So sure is Zophar that Job has sinned greatly against God that he has stated that if God was here and spoke to you he would tell you what you have done that is wrong.
 - Logically this is the only conclusion to Job’s predicament.
 - So Zophar then proceeds to tell him how he can resolve his problem.
 - **Read Job 11:13-15**
 - Yet again good advice but it does not apply to Job.
- Job’s response to all (Job 13:1-5)

- **Read Job 13:1-5**
- Job is pretty disgusted with his friends at this point. They are adamant that he has done something wrong and they are telling him how to fix his problem, but Job keeps telling them that he had not sinned or done anything wrong to God.
- Yet they do not believe him and insist that he is basically a fool.
- So Job informs them that they are worthless doctors as they are not helping him at all. They refused to listen and believe Job.
- They obviously don't think there is any other reason for someone to suffer; it is only because he has wronged God that he could possibly be going through this.
- Yet they couldn't be more wrong.
- Appeal to God (Job 13:20-25)
 - Job now appeals to God because of his suffering, he wanted to know why?
 - Read (Job 13:20-25)
 - Job submitted 2 propositions to God:
 - God could interrogate Job
 - Job could speak to God and then God could respond to him.
 - Job wanted to hear from God and he wanted it made known to him the reason for his suffering.
 - Job was feeling like he was not as close to God as he once was, even asked if he considered him an enemy.
 - Job desperately wanted an answer...but God didn't answer him at this time, Job would still have to wait before God would reach out to him.
 - Job had to wait
 - God was silent during this portion of his suffering and when he was calling out to God. This had to have been very hard.
 - Likewise if we have ever had a time in our lives where we felt that God wasn't as close as we thought he should be or perhaps he didn't seem to be answering our prayers. That can be very difficult.
 - The first thing to remember is that God will never leave you or forsake you.
 - Deuteronomy 31:6
 - "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the Lord your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you.
 - Psalms 37:38
 - "For the Lord loves justice and will not abandon his faithful ones. They are kept safe forever, but the children of the wicked will be destroyed."
 - **You see God never left Job but he waited to answer Job when God was ready.**
 - **Likewise for us we may be in a time of suffering and we may call out to God asking why and the lack of response we may feel that well is God there...has he left me?**
 - The answer to that question is no...God has not left you.
 - We have to understand that God's ways are not our ways, he is infinite and we are finite, we cannot ever fully comprehend God, but we have to have faith in knowing that he knows what is best for us.
 - **How do you find answers when you feel God is being quite? Are those situations sometimes the ones from which you draw the most wisdom?**
- The God of comfort
 - We know that we will suffer in our lives, but God is a God of comfort.
 - To equip us to provide comfort to others

- This comfort that he provides in our time of suffering is for our benefit but also others.
- We are to use the comfort that God has given us and we are to share it with others.
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - *Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*
 - “Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God.
 - **So in our times of suffering, God will comfort us so that we can likewise help others through the comfort that we receive from God.**
 - This gives us the ability to help other others whether it be a fellow Christian or someone who is lost.
 - **The comfort that Christ gives us will allow us to be a light in the darkness for others and so we can show them the HOPE that we have in Jesus Christ.**
- We will experience the same sufferings as Christ and we will receive his comfort.
 - Scripture also tells us that we will experience the same sufferings as Christ, but he will comfort us in those times.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:5
 - “For as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so through Christ our comfort also overflows.
 - 1 Peter 4:12-13
 - “Dear friends, don’t be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you as if something unusual were happening to you. Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of his glory.
 - **We will experience the same sufferings that Christ endured for the same reasons that he did, to promote a love for God.**
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- **Closing**
 - **When someone is in need of our comfort we must think very hard about what advice we are to give if any at all. Sometimes there are NO words and simply our presence is all that is required.**
 - **In fact if we look at what Job’s 3 friends did in the very beginning before the discussions, this was probably the most beneficial thing they did for Job.**
 - **Job 2:11-13**