

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY SERVANT \_\_\_\_\_?  
JOB 1-2

## Introduction

God's deepest comforts are not attached to answers.

That's one of the most difficult things to deal with as a Christian.

But God doesn't leave us hanging, at least not a lot.

At least we have Job...

Job offers some insights  
gained on the anvil of experience.

- Job lost everything:  
possessions, family, health –  
and he had 3 lousy friends to boot.
- Job responds to his friends with 3 answers:  
one correct answer, but 2 wrong ones:
  - He's correct to say that  
it wasn't his personal sin  
that caused his tragedy.
  - He's incorrect to say that
    - 1) God is uncaring,  
and that
    - 2) God is not in control.
- The truth is, God is always in control.

- But the thing is: to us many times it doesn't look like it.
  - In fact, it looks out of control, running amuck.
- That's where we are today, with Job.
- --having lost everything--  
sitting in a pile of ashes,  
with boils on our skin from head to toe (2:7).
- Granted, most of our boils are unseen.
  - But nevertheless they exist within our minds and hearts.
    - The pain of disease.
    - ...of divorce.
    - ...of unwanted pregnancy.
    - ...of sexual addictions.
    - ...of loss of fortunes.
    - ....of past behavior.
    - ...of bitterness and hatred.
- I'm sure none of us would say  
that we don't deserve the effects of sin.

- But at the same time,  
when we come to Jesus  
and give ourselves over to Him,  
we have certain expectations about protection and care.
- I automatically think of 1 Peter 1:5, speaking of Christians,  
*<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power*

Really? It doesn't seem like it sometimes!

But that's what he says.

And it's not just for a little while but...

*until the coming of the salvation  
that is ready to be revealed in the last time.* (1 Pet 1:5)

- 1 Peter echoes Job.
- Job teaches us that suffering and grief  
are a natural part of even the believer's life.
- Peter tells us the same thing in verses 6-7,

*<sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.* (1 Peter 1:6-7)

- I know none of us want to hear this. I certainly don't.

- But God is giving us a view into the eternal side of reality, showing us that what happens to us isn't by chance.
- Perhaps the best part of this book is that not all suffering is directly associated with our mistakes.

The Book of Job puts an eternal context around our lives...

### I. **The Heavenly Council**

- We see in Chapter 1 that there are things going on in heaven about which we know nothing.
- Let me introduce you to the heavenly council.

<sup>6</sup> *One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"*

*Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."*

<sup>8</sup> *Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."*

<sup>9</sup> *"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. <sup>10</sup> "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. <sup>11</sup> But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."*

<sup>12</sup> *The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”*

*Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. (Job 1:6-12)*

- Wow! This is a peculiar scene, isn't it.
- God and Satan talking about a particular individual.
- Did you know that each of us is that important too?
- You see, there is something going on about which we know nothing.
- Job knows nothing. He is totally unaware of this cosmic drama.
  - He isn't in charge.
  - He isn't determining what going to happen.
  - The only thing he can do is to control how he will respond to the circumstances.
  - And upon that basis, he will be judged faithful or faithless.
- Again Job isn't to blame. Verse 8 says,
 

<sup>8</sup> *“...he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” (Job 1:8)*
- The writer tells us up front that Job isn't being punished for his sin.
- In fact, he's so upright that he offers sacrifices for his adult children (v. 5),

<sup>5</sup> ...*Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom. (Job 1:5)*

- But Job's blamelessness doesn't protect him from suffering and grief.
  
- In fact, it's the exact opposite.
  - His blamelessness makes him an object of God's grace.
  - Did I really say grace?
  - How can Job be an object of grace?
  - He lost everything:  
possessions, family, health.
  
- Simply because he's an example of what trusting in God means.
  - He was given the opportunity to know God.
  - And it appears that  
one of the best places to know God  
is sitting on a pile of ashes  
scraping your boils with a piece of broken pottery.
  
- This is an important principle.
  - We learn the most about God when we need God.  
  
...When we have lost something dear to us.

...When He's the only one who can help us.

- Why does God do this?
- Because at this moment  
God is testing us  
to see if we really believe in Him.
  - Like the Israelites who were taken into a wasteland without food and water to see what was in their hearts.
  - Like Joseph who was sold to a gypsy caravan and later thrown in prison.
  - Like Jeremiah who was thrown down a well.
  - Like Jonah who was thrown overboard falling deep into the abyss.
  - Like Elijah running for his life after his victory at Mt. Carmel.
- God wants to see  
if we are just serving Him  
to see what we can get out of Him.
- Or if God is enough for us.
- But this is a struggle  
because we hear competing voices.
- When we're sitting on a pile of ashes,  
we hear voices like Job did.
  - Even our loved ones will encourage us to give up on God.

- Job's wife suggested that *he curse God and die* (2:9).
- Job's three friends were discouraging.
- They suggested that his sinful life was the problem.

I don't need anyone to reinforce that thought.  
I think that enough for myself.

- Job, however, since he trusted God, was able to hold on to his integrity.
- He said nothing wrong about God.

## II. **It Is a Question of Trust**

- How much do you trust God?
- Wow! That's hard to answer, isn't it?
- Do you trust Him in every situation, or only in some?
- Can you trust Him with your life?
- Would you trust Him even if you lost someone you love?
- These are really hard questions, aren't they?

- But there are people here today who have been tested like this before  
or  
are going through it right now.
- The key to healing your spiritual sores is to trust God!
- And trusting means that doubt about God never even enters your mind.
- Job teaches us three things about trust:

**1. Trusting God Boils Down To  
Whether We Believe  
What He Says  
Is True Or Not.**

- Job uttered these classic words after he had gone through the worst testing that anyone has possibly gone through.

*<sup>15</sup> Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face. (Job 13:15)*

- It really boils down to something that simple.
- Do you believe what He says is true or not?

**2. Trusting God Does Not Always Mean  
that We Will Understand  
What He Is Doing,  
or Why He Is Doing it.**

- This is the real hard part!

- This is where faith and trust  
have to operate at their highest level!
- When all of the sudden  
everything in our life starts going bad,  
we begin to wonder where God is!
- We wonder if He has forgotten about us,  
or if He still cares about us.
- When all of our best laid plans go bad,  
we wonder why God would allow this to happen to us!
- We may even get mad at God....but...

### **3. Trusting God Is Not Based On Whether He Gives Us Everything That We Ask For.**

- Selfishness doesn't produce trust.
- How many people have you known  
that have said something like this:
  - "I asked God for something, and he didn't give it to me,  
therefore I can't trust Him."
  - This is a very selfish motive.
  - And this will never develop trust in God, only fear.
  - How do we develop a deep trust in God?

- How do we get to the place where Job was where he could say,  
     *“Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him?”*
- He had a relationship with God.
  - A real relationship.
  - Not just one day a week,  
     but 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
  - He drew close to God.
  - He deliberately chose to be close to God by,
    - a. By taking seriously what the Lord says,  

<sup>28</sup> ... *‘The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,  
 and to shun evil is understanding.’*” (Job 28:28)
    - b. By making a covenant with his eyes,  

<sup>1</sup> *“I made a covenant with my eyes  
 not to look lustfully at a girl.* (Job 31:1)
    - c. By possessing an eternal perspective,  

<sup>10</sup> ...*Shall we accept good from God, and not  
 trouble?”* (Job 2:10)

<sup>4</sup> *His wisdom is profound, his power is vast.  
 Who has resisted him and come out unscathed?*  
 (Job 9:4)

d. By controlling his language,

*In all this, Job did not sin in what he said (Job 2:10)*

## Conclusion

- We won't trust a stranger...
  - God doesn't want to be a stranger to any of us.
  - He desires for us to have a personal relationship with Him.
  - The more we know God, the more we will find Him faithful, and the more we will trust Him.
  - This was Job's secret: He knew God.

That's how our faith makes sense of what seems senseless.

Do we know Him?

Do we trust Him?

For our salvation?

For our daily needs?

For everything?