

JOB: Would You Serve God for Nothing? Text: Job 2

Introduction:

Bill Turner

1. It helps us to understand a mental maneuver self-centered people make

Selfish people attack others rather than face their own failures

Whether it is an atheist who blames God, rather than face their own failures

Or Satan who accuses Job of the very selfishness that Satan lives by...

2. The Book of Job is unlike any other book of the Bible, any other in history!

a. But underneath It's Not Primarily About Suffering—But About Faith...

b. Will We Trust, Praise & Honor God—even if our Life is Crumbling Around us?

I. WOULD YOU SERVE GOD FOR NOTHING?

A. WHAT IF YOUR CHARACTER WAS ATTACKED? (1:6-12)

1. Job is a Prominent Man—the greatest man of all the people of the east (1:3)

a) He was a Wise Man at the City Gate (Job 29:7–8)

b) He was Highly Esteemed for his wise Counsel (Job 29:21–22)

2. And He is a Righteous Man of Faith... A Man of Deep Integrity

a) Job was blameless and upright (1:1).

b) He shared with the poor (31:16–21). > cared for strangers (31:32).

c) He Feared God (1:1) and was Honest with Others (29:7, 12–17)

3. Job is unaware he has an enemy attacking his Character behind his back

a) People of the Lie attack others rather than face their own failures

b) Attacking Others Deflects Their Own Conscience to Blame anyone but themselves

4. Satan is attacking Job's Character and Questioning Job's Integrity

a) Saying Job's Faith is Fake. Job didn't love God he only loved himself.

b) How interesting that Satan Accuses Job of Exactly What Satan is Guilty Of

B. WHAT IF YOU SUFFERED TOTAL FINANCIAL RUIN? (1:13-17)

1. Job was a Wealthy Man—until He Lost it All—and was left with nothing

a) I heard about a business man who worked on Wall-street...

b) He lost everything in the 2008 stock market crash.

c) He said, I don't know if i'd be here if I hadn't found the Lord before that market crash

2. Would You Still Serve God even if you suffered total financial ruin?

C. WHAT IF YOU LOST YOUR FAMILY IN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT? (1:18-19)

1. A Person's Whole Life Can Change in one Day

a) Job not only suffered Financial Ruin,

b) but the Tragic Death of His Sons and Daughters

2. Death Seems so Distant and Abstract—

a) until it intrudes suddenly, shockingly, sadly, taking a loved one away from us

3. All of this in one day—Would You Still Serve God?

D. WHAT IF YOU SUFFERED SEVERE CHRONIC PAIN? (2:1-6)

1. Would You Still Serve God?

- a) 'Skin for Skin' you've heard the phrase: 'no skin in the game'
- b) In Other Words, Satan says: Job will risk the Skin of Others—to protect his own skin
- c) But Afflict Job Personally and It's a Whole Different Situation...

2. Satan then Afflicted Job with Acute Physical Pain (2:7–8)

- (1) **Intense pain** (My bones are pierced in me at night, and my gnawing pains take no rest; 30:17)
- (2) **Peeling and darkened skin** (My skin grows black and falls from me; 30:30a)
- (3) **Pus-filled, erupting sores** (My flesh is caked with worms and dust, 7:5b)
- (4) **Anorexia, emaciation** (My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh; 19:20)
- (5) **Fever** (My bones burn with fever; 30:30b)
- (6) **Depression** (I loathe my life; I would not live forever; 7:16 and My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; days of affliction confront me. I go about mourning, but not in the sun; 30:27-28)
- (7) **Weeping** (My face is flushed with weeping; 16:16a)
- (8) **Sleeplessness** (When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be ended? 7:4)
- (9) **Nightmares** (Then you scare me with dreams and terrify me with visions; 7:14)
- (10) **Putrid breath** (My breath is offensive to my wife; 19:17)
- (11) **Difficulty breathing** (He will not allow me to catch my breath; 19:18)
- (12) **Failing vision** (On my eyelids is the shadow of death; 16:16b)
- (13) **Disfigured beyond recognition** (they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him; 2:12)
- (14) **Painful swollen sores all over his body** (from sole of his foot to the crown of his head; 2:7)
- (15) **Intense itching** (to scrape himself; 2:8)
- (16) **This condition lasted for months** (as in months past; 29:2 allotted months of futility; 7:3)
- (17) **All the While Scraping His Sores** with a Potsherd Hebrew: *a 'fragment of earthen vessel.'*
- (18) **People are repulsed by him and his friends turn against him** (19:18-19)

E. WHAT IF YOU HAD TO STAND AND SUFFER ALONE? (2:9-10)

1. Job Had to Suffer Alone—Even His Wife Wouldn't Support Him

- a) She tells him to do exactly what Satan said he would do!

2. Job's Friends have traveled to help—but only make it worse!

Some people think the universe is out of alignment until they give their opinion then somehow when they give their opinion it brings balance back to the universe: It's realigned again!

3. Nothing makes us feel more alone than suffering: exactly what satan wants

F. WHAT IF YOU SUFFERED TRAGEDY AND GOD WAS SILENT?

1. Job's suffering is so terrible that he curses the day he was born (3:1)

2. But maybe the most perplexing thought is that God has forsaken him

3. Job felt completely alone—and he even felt forgotten by God

G. WHAT IF ALL THIS HAPPENED TO YOU—WOULD YOU STILL SERVE GOD?

1. Satan Afflicted Job Through His: FINANCES, FAMILY, FLESH, FRIENDS

2. Some Have Left the Lord For Much Less Than This...

3. One Stressor is hard, 2 harder, 3, 4, 5 becomes Terribly Difficult

II. HOW DO WE ENDURE SUFFERING AND SERVE GOD?

A. REMEMBER GOD IS IN CONTROL...

- 1. We See Clearly in the Book of Job—God is in control...**
 - a) The Angels gather to answer to God to give an account of their duties (not satan)
 - b) It is God who points out the Righteousness of Job
 - c) It is Satan who has to ask permission to afflict Job
 - d) It is God who puts boundaries and limits on Satan
- 2. Even in his suffering Job never forgot God is in Charge of this Cosmos — he never accused God of wrong (1:21-22)**
 - a) Even with all the Trials and Selfishness in this world
 - b) Even though the Foundations of Society are beginning to crumble
 - c) Even though a spirit of darkness is growing and a godless agenda is encroaching
- 3. God is on His Throne and He will One Day Make All things Right**

B. REMEMBER WE HAVE AN ENEMY

- 1. This is what Job did not know... not did his friends know...**
 - a) If Job and His Friends had known this was a Satanic Attack
 - b) A Satanic challenge to Break Job's Faith to Prove he was a Fake
 - c) They Would Not Have Blamed Job for his suffering
 - d) and they would not have blamed God for his suffering
- 2. Think about the cases of Demonic possession during Jesus ministry...**
 - a) Those taken captive at the hands of Satan and his helpers are suffering!
 - b) They Are **TORMENTED, CRYING, SCREAMING, CUTTING, AFFLICTED**
 - c) This is What Satan Wants for You! —But When Jesus cast the demons out...
 - d) That soul finds peace, sanity, and are finally clothed and in their right mind
- 3. So Many Blame God because it's easier to blame God than themselves**
 - a) There is more to the story than just blaming God for everything!

C. REMEMBER TO CARE ABOUT THE SOULS OF OTHERS...

- 1. Job took his spiritual responsibilities serious...**
 - a) Job's children liked to party! —Feasting and Drinking Regularly (1:4)
 - b) Job was rich—but he never allowed his riches to deceive his heart...
- 2. Job Felt a Spiritual Responsibility for Souls of Others...**
 - a) He cared about their souls (1:5) He offered Sacrifice for his children!
- 3. But When Suffering Hits Us—Everything Changes Right?!**
 - a) Now We Don't Care Who Get's Hurt—As Long As we Get Relief! (Tim Jennings)
 - b) A Husband is in an Unhappy Marriage—Who Cares About the Kids?
Who cares about The Marriage: So He HAs an Affair... He Walks Out...
 - c) The Wife is in an Unhappy Marriage—Who Cares About the Kids or Vow or Family?
 - d) "If Mommy's not Happy—No One's Happy" —So Now Mommy is going to Get a Different Daddy and Different Family, Different Kids, Different Life

4. Sometimes Suffering Brings Selfishness—What Satan was Betting On

- a) In Psalms 73 a Man named Asaph Wrote About His Sickness...
—Suffering was Making Asaph Bitter
- b) It Got So Bad He Began to Question the Goodness of God...
- c) why would God allow a good person like him to suffer while the wicked prospered?
- d) But He Went to God with His Faith Crisis—Before it was too late...
(Ps 73:15) ¹⁵ If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.

5. Don't Use Your Suffering as An Excuse to Be Selfish...

—And Cause Others To Loose Their Faith!

D. ADVERSITY IS A REMINDER OF HOW MUCH WE NEED GOD

1. Some Think as Adversity as a Reason to Blame God...

—But Adversity is a Reminder of How Much We Need God!

- a) When Job's Wife Told Him to Just Curse God and Die He said: (2:10)
"You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips." (2:10)

2. Job was a 'Titan of Industry'—wealthiest most influential men of his time!

- a) But He Knew God Gives and God Takes Away and God is Praised Either Way!
- b) He was Dependent of God for Every Good Gift, including His life!

3. Solomon was a Rich and Powerful Man, a Geo-Political Leader, who said

"In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing *that will come* after him." (Ecc. 7:14)
NIV: "Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future."

4. There Will Be Years of Plenty as well as Famine

- a) Days of Prosperity and Days of Adversity—A Time to Mourn, and a time to Laugh
- b) A Time to be Joyful and a Time to Consider—Like COVID has been a time consider
- c) a time "to number our days so we may gain a heart of Wisdom" (Ps. 90:12)

E. REMEMBER YOUR SUFFERING IN LIGHT OF HIS SUFFERING FOR YOU

1. Jesus Gave Up the Riches of Heaven...

- a) not to be born in a palace—but a Manger...
- b) Not to Display His Divine Privileges—but to Lay Them Aside...
- c) Not to be Served—but to Serve, and Give His Life as Ransom

2. Jesus Humbled Himself to Suffer For You —

- a) to pay your Debt in Full on the Cross!
- b) Don't Give Up Your Faith—Don't Prove Satan Right

CONCLUSION:

1. We Serve God For Who He is—Not For What We Get From Him

- a. We Serve God Because it is Right—Not Because it is Easy

2. But In the End, God Blessed Job more than Before,

- a. He Blessed Jesus, more than Before, He Blesses Us More than Before!

3. And God Helps Us Endure the Hardships of Life (2 Corinthians 6:3–10)