

# LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOB Text: Job 42 Bill Turner

## *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

### Introduction:

1. There is no other book of the Bible like the book of Job, no other in history like it
2. And it is for our learning that we may have hope in times of trial—so let's look at:

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## I. 12 LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOB

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### (1) LIFE IS A GIFT—BUT IT IS ALSO A TEST

1. **Life is a Gift From God, because all good gifts are from God**
  - a) But, "Life is more than news, weather and sports." As Ed Sanderson says.
  - b) Life is More Serious than just a playground, Many Times It's a battleground
2. **But God allows the storms of life for His reasons...**
  - a) One of which is that Storms of Life Test Our Foundations...
  - b) So if our life is built on shifting sand, we'll have time to rebuild on the rock of truth.
  - c) Storms can Realign our Priorities to return to the Father like the prodigal son did.
3. **Job is tested by an enemy: Will Job be Faithful to God or Only Himself**
  - a) Satan said if Job lost his blessings he would curse God
  - b) And That May Have Been True for Some People—but not for Job
  - c) Job lost everything but he Passed the Test... (**Job 1:20–22**)

—Job never Turned His Back on God

### (2) SOMETIMES BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

1. **There are several sources of suffering:**
  - a) Suffering May Be the **Result of Others**—like a Drunk driver, or a robbery
  - b) Suffering May Be the **Result of Ourselves**—our own bad choices, or addictions
  - c) Suffering May Be the **Result Time and Chance**—an accident or sickness
  - d) Suffering May Be the **Discipline of the Lord**—to bring us back to Him  
In Which Case—it is again the Result of Ourselves (#2)

### 2. **Sometimes Bad things Happen to Bad People...**

- a) Sometimes Good things Happen to Good People
- b) Sometimes Good things Happen to bad people
- c) Sometimes Bad things Happen to good people

***'all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.'* (2 Tim 3:12)**

### 3. **But God is still in Control!**

- a) Getting Bitter at God Doesn't Change the Truth!
- b) Complaining that He isn't running the universe the way we think he should doesn't change the Fact that God Knows the End from the Beginning!

***"A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him, than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."* (C.S. Lewis)**

**—Refusing to Believe in God doesn't Change the Truth or diminish His Perfection!**

### **(3) WITHOUT GOD'S WORD WE ONLY HAVE A PARTIAL VIEW OF LIFE**

#### **1. Job and His Friends Did Not Have the Bible Like We Have...**

- a) Job lived in the Time of the Patriarchs before the Old or New Testament was written
- b) They Only Had a Partial New—Just like Those Today Who Don't Read their Bible

#### **2. Trying to Understand Life Without God's Word is Fruitless and Frustrating!**

- a) As a Result, Job and His Friends Just Argued in Circles Like Blind Men in the Dark
- b) Job's Friends Thought God was Punishing Job for Secret Sins
- c) Job Thought God Had Abandoned and Forsaken Him!

#### **3. They Had No Idea That God was the One Bragging About Job!**

- a) It was God Who Pointed Out the Righteousness of Job!
- b) It was Satan Who Was Attacking Job—Not God!

**—Those Who Blame God Have No Idea What They Are Talking About!**

### **(4) SATAN IS A LIAR**

#### **1. Jesus declared this... (John 8:43–45)**

- a) In Eden, Satan lies about God to man; but here he lies about man to God.

#### **2. Satan only admits truth IF it serves his own Lies...**

- a) It was True that God Blessed Job
- b) It was a Lie to Say That Was the Only Reason Job Served God
- c) It was a Lie to Imply God has to Buy His Friends

#### **3. The People of the Lie Attack Others Rather than Face their Own Failures**

- a) So Satan Attacks the Integrity of Job
- b) And Attacks the Goodness of God
- c) The Same Way People Tell Lies About Your Faith

**—People of the Lie Attack Others Rather than Face Their Own Failures**

### **(5) SUFFERING IS DISCOURAGING—BUT SO ARE OPINIONATED SELF-RIGHTEOUS FRIENDS**

#### **1. Satan beat Job Down to the Ground with Suffering...**

- a) But His Wife and Friends Beat Job Down Even Further—  
Instead of Helping, they are Hurting
- b) What Satan Couldn't Accomplish—Job's wife and friends almost did...

#### **2. But Opinions Do Not Change the Truth... (Job 42:7)**

- a) All the Speeches, All the Opinions, All the Arguing—doesn't Change the Truth!
- b) But Sometimes we want our opinion more than we want the Truth!

#### **3. For Example: Job's friends blamed Job for his suffering...Some secret sin**

- a) They Wouldn't Budge on Blaming Job... WHY?
- b) Because If Job Didn't Deserve This Suffering...then I Might have to suffer!
- c) This HAS to Be Job's Fault—Otherwise I'm Not Safe!
- d) This is Why People Pick Their Own Paradigms and Ideology—it keeps them safe

**—On the Day of Judgement It Doesn't Matter What Your Friends Say...**

- e) or Your Spouse, or Media, or Government says—You'll be judged by what God says!

## **(6) PAIN HAS A PURPOSE—SUFFERING CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANCE**

1. If there is no God, then nothing matters—but since there is a God, then everything matters, Even Suffering!

2. Pain is a Powerful Teacher

- a) Without Pain life would be even more dangerous...
- b) Pain Receptors are there for a reason—WHY?
- c) to warn and protect you—Teaching You How To Be Safe and Avoid Danger!

3. Pain and Suffering Can Realign our Perspective—(Hebrews 12:11)

- a) Nothing gets our undivided attention faster and clearer than pain.

“Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” (C.S. Lewis)

4. We Live in a Broken, Wounded World because of Satan, Sin and Death

- a) Pain Sobers Us Up from the Intoxication of the World
- b) Causes us to Have a Deeper Appreciate of God’s Blessings
- c) To seek God who promises us a place of rest, no more tears, nor crying, nor death.

*(Psalm 119:67) Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.*

## **(7) GOD CARES—HE NEVER TOOK HIS EYES OFF JOB**

1. GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING WE ARE SUFFERING (Job 23:10-12)

a) A business man went to see the preacher, told him—I’ve lost everything...

- (1) Everything? the preacher asked? Yes, Everything...
- (2) I’m sorry you lost your Wife—no I didn’t loose my wife...
- (3) I’m sorry you lost your family—No I didn’t loose my family
- (4) I’m sorry you lost your faith—No I didn’t loose my faith

b) Well I Guess You Didn’t Loose Everything then!

2. We Need to Realize and Remember that God Cares for us... (1 Peter 5:7)

## **(8) GOD SHOWS US A BIGGER PICTURE SO WE CAN HAVE HOPE <sup>1</sup>**

1. God’s Word is the Fiery Core of Faith...

- a) God spoke from the whirlwind to give Job the Bigger Picture
- b) Reminding us that His providence provides everything in our life! (Job 38:4–7)

2. God’s provides for ALL Creation—not just for our personal comfort!

- a) (Job 38:39–39:2) There’s a Bigger Picture than Just Our Temporary Trials

3. God Offers Us Salvation Because We Can’t Save Ourselves (Job 40:6–14)

## **(9) ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD**

1. God saw Job Through to the end of the suffering (Job 42:7–10)

- a) And He Blessed Job Greater than Before!

2. This is the Divine PROVIDENCE and PROMISE of God (Romans 8:28)

- a) He will work ALL things FOR Good... (not everything WILL BE Good)
- b) To Those Who Love the Lord... Who Are Called According to His Purpose...

3. What is His Purpose? To Be Conformed to the Image of His Son

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<sup>1</sup> Ed Sanderson, ‘Man of God: Job’ Sermon at Alamo Rd. Church of Christ, Vacaville, Ca

## **(10) SUFFERING CAN'T SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD UNLESS YOU LET IT**

### **1. Satan uses any way possible to separate you from God...**

a) But Even Suffering Cannot Separate You From God... **(Romans 8:18)**

### **2. Notice This Amazing Fact: (Romans 8:38–39)**

a) Not Even Pain, Discouragement, Angels, Demons,  
Not Even Even Death Cannot Separate You From God

### **3. This is Why We Are More Than Conquerors through Him Who Loves Us!**

a) His Grace Purchased By His Blood Forgives Us of the One Thing That Can  
Separate us from God—Our Sins!

b) But in Christ there is no condemnation—in Christ You Are Safe

**—Nothing Can Separate You From God except Yourself**

## **(11) JOB REMAINED FAITHFUL UNDER THE WORST CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE SATAN REFUSED TO BE FAITHFUL UNDER THE BEST**

1. This Accusation from Satan, and the Faith of Job showed the whole world,  
both angels and humanity...

2. That Man Can Be Faithful to God under the worst circumstances when  
Satan refused to be faithful under the best circumstances

3. Job Retained His Integrity while Satan Retained His Vanity

## **(12) SATAN & SIN BROUGHT SUFFERING & DEATH INTO THE WORLD**

### **1. And As a Result—Suffering Was Necessary for our Salvation...**

**But it was God Who Took the Suffering Upon Himself! (Hebrews 2:10, 14-15)**

- As Sin Brought Pain Into the World — Jesus Experienced the Pain of Crucifixion!
- As Sin Brought a Curse — Jesus Was Made a Curse for Us!
- As Sin Brought Suffering Into the World — Jesus Suffered for Our Sin!
- As Sin Brought the Sweat of Work — Jesus' Work of Redemption at the cross caused Sweat  
as Drops of Blood!
- As Sin Brought Thorns Upon the Earth—Jesus Wore a Crown of Thorns for Us!
- As Sin Brought Sorrow — Jesus Was a Man of Sorrows and Agony of the Cross
- As Sin Brought the Penalty of Death—Jesus Was Obedient Unto Death, the Death of Cross!
- As Man Would Return to the Dust of the Ground—Jesus Blood Poured Out on the Dust of  
the Ground of Golgatha—And He Was Laid in the Dust of Death—For Our Sins!

**—Jesus Suffering Served a Purpose for Our Salvation!**

**Therefore we are not ashamed to suffer for Him! (1 Peter 4:16)**

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. God Watched over Job—Knowing Job would persevere! **(Job 23:10)**
2. God the Father watched over Jesus in His Suffering...
3. God is Watching Over Us—Will You Believe His Promises!