

For Better or for Worse Lesson 9 3Q 2007

The Jobs: Living with Losses

Thoughts or questions from the class?

SUNDAY

Read second paragraph "It's interesting..." Thoughts?

Why does a loving God allow so much suffering? Can genuine love exist in an atmosphere without freedom? Does genuine freedom risk disagreement? Does this give insight as to why there is pain and suffering currently?

Why will there be no pain and suffering in the end? Because everyone will be fully convinced in their own minds of the truth about God, His methods and principles and will be so settled into this truth they cannot be moved. In other words all the peoples of eternity will be restored fully into Godliness that every being there would freely give his or her life for every other being there.

Does that mean there won't be any disagreements about anything? Could one still disagree on where to put the hibiscus plant in the garden?

Can anyone think of other reasons for pain and suffering?

- We live in a war zone between good and evil and innocent casualties happen
- God will discipline those who loves, so suffering sometimes could be discipline
- Sometimes as a consequence of our own choices – touch a hot stove and suffer pain

What do we learn from the story of Job regarding pain and suffering? Is this story primarily about how the righteous suffer? Or is this story primarily about God? How?

Where does the scene start – after describing Job, we turn to heaven and Satan comes to heaven for this council. Why do you think Satan was there? What was going on here?

It says, “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.” KJV, NKJV, Darby, ASV, ESV, NASB, YLT. (the word translated as “son” is “ben” as in “ben hur” son of hur.

Notice it says that Adam was the son of God, in Luke 3:37, 38 finishing the genealogy of Christ it states:

the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch,  
 the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel,  
 the son of Kenan, the son of Enosh,  
 the son of Seth, the son of Adam,  
 the son of God.

Do you think this counsel was a counsel of the representative heads of all the worlds? Formed of the first created beings on each of the planets where God has created life? And Adam’s place in this counsel Satan claimed as his?

God says, “Satan where have you come from?” Satan says, “From earth where else. Don’t you know it’s my kingdom?” God says, “Not so fast, have you considered my servant Job, he is perfect and righteous in all his ways. He doesn’t recognize your rulership. He is loyal to me.” Satan responds, “He only pretends, he isn’t on your side because you pay well...”

What is the allegation? Job only values God for what God can do for him not for who God is, not for God’s character methods and principles – thoughts about this?

Many people fall into this same trap, falsely believing their value is in what they can do not in who they are. I see these frequently in my office when someone has had an injury and

can no longer work and they begin to believe they are a burden to their families, they begin to think that their family would be better off without them, they begin to think as Satan alleges, your family only values you for what you do for them not for who you are.

Do you value God for what He can do for you or for who He is?

And then what happens? Does God strike out against Job? No! God removes the restraint He has placed on Satan and gave Satan more freedom over Job's life – and what happened? Destruction, pain, suffering and death – now did God force Satan to behave in this way or was Satan free to treat Job any way he wanted?

What do we learn? That Satan is the destroyer, the bringer of pain, suffering and death not God- but what did the people think? What did the servant report? “The fire from God fell”, and Job, “The Lord gave and the Lord takes away”, and the three friends blamed God –

What do we learn? God has been lied about, God has been misrepresented, we have misunderstood and misinterpreted events attributing them to God.

Why would God allow such a thing? Can angels read hearts and minds? Can other created beings read the inmost secrets of the heart? If they could none would have been deceived by Lucifer in the first place. So when God declares Job righteous and Satan says no – Satan is saying God is wrong – if Satan gets Job to curse God he looks to all those Sons of God and says, “See I told you, He was wrong about Job and He is wrong about me, you can't trust what God says.”

Do we still struggle with this issue today? How do we see these same issues at play in our modern world?

Health Wellness gospel – if you have faith you will be healthy and wealthy and if you are poor and sick you are out with

God. That God is the one who brings punishment for sin and God punished New Orleans with Katrina for its wickedness etc.

## MONDAY

We are supposed to be talking about Bible couples this quarter – what do we know from the Bible about Job and his wife?

Does the Bible give us much information about Mrs. Job? Do we even know her name?

What do you think about what she said to Job? Do you think she was discouraged? Do you think she was grieving?

The lesson title is called The Jobs: Living with Loss – has anyone in here struggled with loss – would anyone like to share what helped them in times of loss?

Read bottom paragraph “In Job 1:1...” and bottom green section - Thoughts?

What kind of gospel does it sound like she believed? The health wellness gospel – bad events must mean you have done something wrong?

## WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph and question immediately following, thoughts?

What impact do you think Mrs. Job’s words had on Job if any? Can words discourage as well as encourage?

How do we deal with people when they say negative things to us?

Examine the truth and facts, remembering “from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” which means what? That people reveal what is in them, what they believe and think, their character by what they say and do. They don’t necessary reveal reality.

But not only do words reveal what is in the heart, our words react upon us and change us:

The words are an indication of that which is in the heart. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." But the words are more than an indication of character; they have power to react on the character. Men are influenced by their own words. Often under a momentary impulse, prompted by Satan, they give utterance to jealousy or evil surmising, expressing that which they do not really believe; but the expression reacts on the thoughts. They are deceived by their words, and come to believe that true which was spoken at Satan's instigation. Having once expressed an opinion or decision, they are often too proud to retract it, and try to prove themselves in the right, until they come to believe that they are. It is dangerous to utter a word of doubt, dangerous to question and criticize divine light. The habit of careless and irreverent criticism reacts upon the character, in fostering irreverence and unbelief. Many a man indulging this habit has gone on unconscious of danger, until he was ready to criticize and reject the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." {DA 323.1}

Thoughts? Does this mean we shouldn’t ask questions – God said it, I believe it, that’s all there is to it? Don’t question divine light? Or does it mean to question but with a heart attitude of one who really wants to understand, not question to try to cause doubt and confusion.

## THURSDAY

Read bottom paragraph “Even though Job...” – thoughts?

Notice it correctly says Evil doesn’t come from God – do we ever attribute evil to God? How?

Do we ever suggest God is the source of death? i.e. God will execute the sinner? That God will burn people in hell? Did they in the book of Job attribute the losses to God? Do we do that in our lives?

But where does death come from? The law of sin and death, which is selfishness, survival of the fittest, the opposite of the law of love.

In TC page 109 speaking about Mrs. Job it says, “But in the account as presented in the book of Job her role was disappointingly unexemplary and stands as a clangorous warning that anger toward God for any reason whatsoever is wholly unwarranted.” – thoughts?

Do you know people who are angry at God or have been angry at God, what should they do? Should they not talk to God about their anger? Or should they pretend they are not angry or feel guilty for feeling anger because it is wholly unwarranted?

I have had patients who have been angry at God but never dealt with it because they were told they it is sin to be angry at God so they pretend to themselves they are not.

If you had a child who was angry at you would you want them to talk to you about it? Why? Do you think God wants us to talk to Him?

I had a patient whose mother died when she was 5 years old, and she told me that during the funeral, she was sitting on the

front row and the pastor looked right at her and said,  
“Sweetheart, Jesus took your mommy to be with Him.”

She said this made her angry and she was still angry at God all these years later – why was she angry at God?

Because she had believed a lie, if one has believed lies about God and then has anger – would that anger be warranted? It actually wouldn't be directed at the reality of God, but at the misconstrued construct of God the person holds, but what would be the only way to work that out?

So, it is true, when one understands all things correctly there is never a reason to be angry at God, but is there a place for anger along the way as we are working through the misunderstandings? And when we experience anger at God, do we know enough about Him now that we will recognize this anger as a sign that we are misunderstanding something?

FRIDAY

Questions 2 and 3 read and discuss.