



DISCIPLE

Desire Determination Discipline Diligence Delight Doer

Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 20_5 - Trusting God with Our Lives (Job 3)

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)

Job's Friends (2:11-13)

- Job's three friends:
 - All three men were old - older than Job. (Job 32:6; 15:10)
 - Eliphaz - probably the oldest. (2:11; 42:7).
 - Associated with Teman, a place known for its wisdom. (Jeremiah 49:7)
 - His arguments were based on his observations of life (Job 4:8; 5:3, 27) and a frightening night experience (4:12-21); tradition (15:18-19) and the God he believed would never let an innocent man suffer (4:7). There did not seem to be room for grace in Eliphaz's theology.
 - Bildad - His famous argument was, "God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evildoers." (8:20) According to Bildad, Job's children died because they were sinners. (8:4)
 - Zophar - the youngest, most arrogant "Know this!", merciless "friend". (11:6; 20:4); only spoke twice.
- The good qualities of Job's friends:
 - ① They cared enough to travel long distances to visit him.
 - ② They went where he was – the ash heap – garbage dump!
 - ③ They did not say anything for seven days.
- Each of the friends spoke truth mixed with error.
 - Easy answers for deep subjects mislead many people.
 - **LESSON:** God requires His people to be disciples (serious students) of His *whole counsel* - and live their lives on *every* word that precedes from His mouth. (Luke 4:4)

- Job answers to each of his friends put their shallow arguments in the dust.
- These men may have been afraid that similar calamities could happen to them! See Job 6:21.
- In the end, God rebukes all three friends for their “compassion” on Job! (Job 42:7-10)

“I Wish I Was Dead” (Job 3:1-19)

- (v. 1) Job breaks the silence of seven days.
 - One might think that if Job had just kept quiet then the rest of the book of Job would never have been written – **but read Proverb 16:1!**
 - Perhaps **seven days** of silence **and suffering** changed Job’s disposition of **calm** in 2:10 to an outburst of **feelings**.
- (vv. 2-3) Job curses the day of **his birth** — **NOT GOD** as his wife had suggested in Job 2:9!
 - Job speaks of **two** nights: His conception (v. 3) and his birth (vv. 4-13)
 - **NOTE:** Verse 3 – As Job speaks of the night of his **conception** he speaks, “a male child is conceived” – He speaks of being a **child** (not a fetus or a “thing”) at the moment of conception.! For Job **life** began at **conception**.
 - Conception is a **blessing** from God (Genesis 30:1-2; Psalm 139:13-16)
 - Questioning a **blessing** of God is questioning God’s **goodness**.
 - Many times **trials** are blessing in disguise!!
 - **Questions that may have entered into Job’s mind:** “Why should he be born for such calamities?” “Is this the purpose of life?”
 - **READ** Jeremiah 20:14-18
 - Elijah also face similar thoughts – see 1 Kings 19:1-8
- (v. 4) Job wishes that his day of birth (he calls **now** darkness) had never existed.
- (v. 5) Job is wishing that **absolute darkness** cover the day of his birth.
- (vv. 6-8) Job wishes that his day of birth be swallowed up in darkness, those who curse (such as Balaam [Numbers 22-24] whom Barak called to curse Israel) would curse his day, and that the Leviathan (mythological monster who swallowed the sun and moon to create eclipses) would swallow his day.
- (vv. 9-10) Job wished that the “morning stars” – those who pointed to the coming of new day would have never shown to welcome in the day of his birth.

- (vv. 11-12) **FOUR WHYS:** One author says, “It is easy to ask “why”, but difficult to get the right answer.”
 - **WARNING:** There is nothing wrong with asking “why”, but it *is* wrong to think that God owes us an answer!
 - Consider Jesus asking, “Why?” in Matthew 27:46. We are only given one verse of Christ’s cry – we have to go to Psalm 22 to get the rest. NOTICE the “**BUT You . . .**” in verses 3, 9, and 19.
 - Job asks questions that only God can answer:
 - ★ (vv. 11-12) **Why did I not die at birth?**
- (vv. 13-19) Job concludes that if he had died in childbirth he would be at **rest** now! Job saw **death** as a release from life’s trials.
 - Job starts with **kings and counselors** in verse 13 and descends to **prisoners and servants** in verses 18-19).
 - **DEATH comes to ALL** – to the small and the great – verse 19.

“Digging for Death” (vv. 20-26)

- (vv. 20-22) – Job asks, “Why does death not come to those who suffer so much in life?”
 - (v. 21) Job speaks of **digging for death as digging for hidden treasure**.
 - (v. 22) These people **rejoice** when the **grave** comes.

Never in the book of Job does the idea of suicide occur!

- (v. 23) Job believes that God has him **hedged in** so that he cannot **escape** the suffering that has come upon him == remember 1:21 and 2:10!
- (v. 24) “sighing” is אָנַחַח 'anachah {an-aw-khaw'} which really means “**heavy groaning**” – an expression of great physical pain.
 - “groaning” is שִׁאָגָה sheagah {sheh-aw-gaw'} which is really **roaring like a lion or the roaring of the sea**.
- (vv. 25-26) Job seems to hint that he may have had a “feeling” that something bad was about to happen to him.

LESSONS for Us

- ① Job, in his **great** suffering, seems to have **forgotten** all the good that God had given him **because** he was born. Pain and suffering causes us to **forget** the goodness of God – **LET US LEARN!**

- ② Death truly is the gateway that leads us **out** of this life with all of its troubles **BUT** where does the gateway lead us **into**. For believers, death is a doorway into the very presence of God. For unbelievers, death is a doorway into **eternal suffering!** – and that the **wrath of God**.
- ③ Job's suffering caused his wisdom to fail:
- ① It is vain to wish for something to **have happened** when it has already happened.
 - ② It is vain to **curse** something that cannot be hurt or make it worse. Nothing in this world can change the past.
 - ③ Wishing that our birth may never have happened **is to be selfish** – for we will never know just how our lives have impact on others – such as Job's mother!!
 - ④ To despise God's gift of life is to despise the **Giver!**
- ④ From this chapter we find Job's **impatience** with God, **BUT** when we come to James 5:11 Job is commended on his **patience!!**
OOOOooooooo the GRACE of GOD – see Hebrews 8:12!
- ⑤ We can ask "**why**" but not demand or expect an answer from God (Job 33:13). If God was to tell the **answer** it would not ease our pain or satisfy us!! One author says, "We live on **promises**, not explanations; so we should not spend too much time asking God why."
- ⑥ God has a plan for each person. He is the Potter we are the clay. We cannot complain about our lives! (**Psalm 139:16**; 100:3; 119:73; 138:8; Isaiah 29:16; 45:9; **64:8**; **Romans 9:20-24**; Ephesians 2:10)
- ⑦ Suffering is a part of life. **Many** have and are suffering more than any of us could ever imagine!
- ⑧ We need to **learn** from Job's mistakes and Job's victories!