

LIFE LESSONS FROM JOB
jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org
January 13, 2019

Job 1:6-8, 1:20-22, 12:13-25, 13:13

1. This morning we are going to continue the series of messages from the Old Testament I began some months ago.
2. Our focus will be on several passages from the book of Job.
3. My biggest difficulty in preaching just one message from a book like Job is deciding on what does God want me to focus on.
4. James made it clear that we can learn important life lessons from the Old Testament prophets; that includes Job. James 5:10-11

As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 We count those blessed who endured. **You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.**

5. Most people would have a problem equating God's compassion and mercy with the Lord's dealings with the Old Testament prophets, and particularly with Job.
6. However the writer of Hebrews clearly stated that God's discipline is a mark of His love, and thus a manifestation of His compassion and mercy. Heb 12:4-11

You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; 6 **FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.**" 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

NOTE: What matters to God is not the process but the outcome of His dealings with us.

7. Let's see what we can learn from the Lord's dealings with Job.

I. Being righteous in God's sight does not exempt us from discipline and difficulties. 1:6-8

- A. It is clear from the beginning that Job was an extraordinary man.
 1. He was God's servant.
 2. God stated that no other man on earth compared with Job.
 - a. The Lord referred to him as blameless: he was a man of integrity who was morally and ethically pure.

- b. Furthermore he was upright: straightforward, just and proper in his dealings with others.
- B. Job was a man that God knew could withstand a direct encounter with the Devil.
- C. Consider some others that were kin to Job.
 1. Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brothers.
 2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego who were thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to bow to King Nebuchadnezzar's statue.
 3. Daniel who was thrown into the lion's den for disobeying the king's edict.
 4. The Apostles, all of whom were martyred with the exception of John.
- C. As bad as Job's suffering was it did not compare to the sufferings of Jesus Christ on our behalf.
- D. The question is what are we willing to suffer so that the purposes of God might be advanced in and through our lives.

II. God's dealing with us are always in keeping with His character. 1:20-22

- A. Come what may we must always remember that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.
 - B. We must also remember that we are not in the world to be pampered and petted; rather we are here to be good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - C. In spite of the loss of his children and his wealth Job did not blame God.
- NOTE: The word blame means that Job did not ascribe unseemliness to God. He did not question God's character or accuse God of wrong behavior towards him.

III. Regardless of what is happening we must have total confidence in God's sovereignty. 12:13-25

- A. In this passage Job revealed his conviction that God's sovereignty was visible in nature, human society, religious matters, national and international affairs, and the lives of individuals.
- B. You and I must understand that God values our souls above everything and everyone we value.
- C. Also His plans and purposes trump our plans and purposes.
- D. As God's purchased possessions He has a right to use us anywhere and anyway He chooses.

IV. However difficult our circumstances may be our hope must be in God. 13:15

- A. Can you say with Job, "Though God slay me, I will hope in Him."
 - B. In a biblical context hope has to do with waiting on God, hoping in God, while living expectantly.
 - C. Job endured because of his hope was in God.
 - D. The word endurance as used in the Bible speaks of the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.
 - E. Even though Job's hope was in God he reserved the right to discuss his situation with God.
- NOTE: God's condescension is such that He allows us to make our case before Him.

APPLICATION

1. God's dealing with His children are designed to conform us to the image of Christ
2. He disciplines us so that we might share his holiness.
3. His precious and magnificent promises are ours so that we might become partakers of the divine nature.
4. God is constantly delivering us over to death so that the life of Christ might be manifested in our mortal bodies.
5. The life lessons we discussed today will go a long way in helping us navigate life in a way that honors and glorifies God.
6. Let me close with a personal testimony recorded by the Apostle Paul related to what he learned through a great trial. 2 Cor 1:8-11

For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves **so that** we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, 11 you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.

7. Behind all of God's dealings with us there is a **"so that."**
8. May God have His way in our lives and in the life of PHBC.