

AUTOPSY • Week 5: Probability or Promise?

Daily Briefing • Day 1 of 5 • Righteous, Reoriented, Restored

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

Sunday's sermon introduced the problem at the heart of this series: sometimes the formula doesn't produce the expected outcome. Today we go deeper into the most extreme case study in Scripture for that question. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I admit that when biblical beliefs and behaviors do not produce desired outcomes, I want explanations more than I want perspective. Help me to trust that You see what I cannot see, and that the love You expressed for me by sending Jesus to the Cross is still the message You want me to hear. Help me to know my limitations and to patiently trust You in my perseverance and endurance, through the trials, hardships, and difficulties of this life. I pray these things humbly in Your name. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

If you want the most extreme test of the autopsy formula in the entire Bible, you go to the book of Job. Not because Job is a story about suffering. It is not. It is a story about what happens when a righteous person is caught up in a supernatural conflict they cannot see, and what God does for that person on the other side of it.

Job 1:1 establishes his inputs before anything bad happens: blameless, upright, fearing God, turning from evil. Then in Job 1:8, God Himself confirms this assessment to Satan directly. This is not a man who is being evaluated and found adequate. God is pointing to Job as the clearest available example of what a righteous person looks like. Maximum righteous inputs. Confirmed by God. And then everything falls apart. His wealth is destroyed, his children are killed, and his health collapses. The formula produced catastrophic outcomes for reasons entirely outside Job's beliefs and behaviors. The cause of his suffering is in a conversation happening at a level he has no access to.

Job spends thirty-seven chapters trying to trace his outcomes upstream to his inputs and coming up empty. His friends insist the suffering must be the result of sin. Job insists he has done nothing to deserve it. Both are reasoning logically, but from insufficient information. When God finally speaks from the whirlwind in Job 38:1-4, He does not explain what happened behind the scenes in chapters 1 and 2. He does not tell Job about the conversation with Satan. Instead, God asks Job where he was when the foundation of the earth was laid. The point is not information. It is perspective and humility. Job did not get answers. He got a different vantage point. And that vantage point was enough.

Job 42:10-12 records the restoration: Job receives back twice what he lost. This is not just a happy ending. It is a picture of what God does on the other side of the inexplicable loss for those who remain faithful through it. Romans 8:18 is the New Testament statement of the same principle: the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed. The doubled restoration in this life points toward an eternal restoration so complete that comparison becomes impossible.

READ & MEDITATE

Job 1:1, 8

"There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil... And the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?'"

Job 38:1–4

“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.’”

Job 42:10, 12

“And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before... And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.”

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Read Job 1:1 and 1:8 together. Notice that the second description comes from God Himself, not from Job or his friends. Then read Job 38:1-4 and notice what kind of question God asks rather than what kind of answer He gives. Then read Job 42:10 and 12 alongside Romans 8:18 and ask what the doubled restoration points toward.

REFLECT

God confirmed Job's inputs were right before anything bad happened. The suffering was not the result of bad beliefs or behaviors. It came from a conflict Job could not see.

Is there a situation in your own life where you have honestly done the autopsy and the inputs were genuinely right, but the outcome was still painful? Describe it briefly. What has that cost you in terms of faith, bitterness, or confusion about God's goodness?

God's response from the whirlwind is not an explanation. It is a recalibration. He does not tell Job what happened in chapters 1 and 2 or explain His purposes behind the suffering. He asks Job where he was when the foundation of the earth was laid as a way of reminding Job how much larger God's view is than his own.

Fill in the blank from Job 38:4:

*“Where were you when I laid the _____ of the earth? Tell me, if you have _____.” (Job 38:4)**

**These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

God does not answer Job's questions. He reorients Job's perspective. When life is not going according to plan and the answers are not coming, God's response is not an explanation of cause but a question about scope.

What does it tell you about God that He responds to Job's crisis by expanding Job's view rather than satisfying his curiosity? And what does that require of you right now if you are waiting for answers that have not arrived?

Job receives twice what he lost. Romans 8:18 says the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed. The doubled restoration in Job's life is a picture, not the full reality.

If Job's doubled earthly restoration only points toward something greater, what does that do to the way you hold the losses of this life? Where specifically are you being called to hold something with an open hand right now, trusting that the restoration God has planned exceeds what this life can produce?

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Galatians 6:9 from memory: