

THE PROBLEM AND POWER OF PAIN

WEEK 2 • DAILY BRIEFING 5 • NOT EVERYONE GETS IT BACK HERE

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

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.

This week follows Sunday's sermon, "A War Without Answers," from the book of Job. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me see farther than this life. Whether what I have lost is restored in this life or not until the next, I pray that You will bring to completion the good work that You have started in me. Give me a longing for the better country You have prepared. Thank You that nothing I give up for You is wasted. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

On Sunday we saw how Job's story ends. God restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before (Job 42:10). That was the fourth principle from Sunday: the faithful end with far more than they lose. But Job's ending raises an honest question. Some people see God make things right in this life, and many faithful people do not. Yesterday was about comforting someone else in their grief. Today is about your own hope when what you lost does not come back.

Now there's an elephant in the room that needs to be addressed plainly. Everything Job owned was doubled, but his children were not. He had buried ten, and God gave him ten more (Job 42:13). To our ears that can sound cold, as if new children could replace the ones he lost. They could not, and the Bible never says they did. But notice the detail. The text says God gave Job "twice as much as he had before," yet it lists the same number of children. Many Bible teachers have pointed out that the math only works if Job's first ten children were not gone for good. Job had already said, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth" (Job 19:25). The full restoration of his family was still ahead of him, on the other side of the grave. Even Job had to wait for the restoration of part of what he lost.

The same is true for us. Some of what you lose may come back in this life. Much of it will not, and many faithful people wait their whole lives. Our ultimate hope is not that we get a happy ending in the here and now. Our hope is resurrection into eternal life in the new heavens and new earth, where "death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore" (Revelation 21:4).

That distinction matters, because plenty of people have been taught a version of faith that promises the payoff now. If you have enough faith or do enough good things, your marriage will be restored and your scan will come back clean. Sometimes those things happen, and we should thank God when they do. But many faithful people never recover from a bankruptcy or reconcile with their family. Others live with chronic pain or bury a loved one too young. If you think Job 42 is a guarantee for this life, you will feel cheated when God does not deliver on a promise He never made.

Today's passages come from Hebrews, a letter most likely written to Jewish Christians who were under pressure to give up on Jesus. Earlier in the letter, the writer reminds them that they had lost their property for their faith and accepted it with joy, "since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one" (Hebrews 10:34).

Chapter 11 walks through a long list of people from the Old Testament who trusted God. Today's first passage starts with Abraham and his family. God called Abraham to leave his homeland and go to a land He promised

to give him, but Abraham never owned that land. He lived there “as in a foreign land, living in tents” for the rest of his life (Hebrews 11:9).

READ & MEDITATE

Hebrews 11:13–16

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 11:35–36, 39–40

Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ... ³⁹And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

As you read, look for who got something back in this life, who did not, and what God thinks of both groups.

REFLECT

Answer these honestly. This is between you and God, and nobody else needs to see what you write.

Abraham spent his whole life living in tents in a land God had promised him.

1. Fill in the blank from Hebrews 11:13: “These all died in faith, not having _____ the things promised.”

According to verses 14 through 16, what were these people looking for?

What does verse 16 say about God?

Verse 35 puts two very different stories side by side.

2. Who got something back in this life, and who did not?

3. Fill in the blank from Hebrews 11:39: “And all these, though _____ through their faith, did not receive what was promised.”

God commended both groups for their faith. The women who received their dead back were not more faithful than the people who were tortured. God does not grade faith by how things turn out in this life.

Right after this week’s memory verse, Paul describes a creation that is groaning and waiting to be set free (Romans 8:19–22).

4. Paul says the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory to come. What are you most looking forward to when God makes all things new?

How would keeping that hope in front of you change the way you face what is hard right now?

The people in Hebrews 11 called themselves “strangers and exiles on the earth.”

5. Where are you living as if this life is all there is?

What would change this week if you lived like someone looking for a better country?

MY “I WILL” STATEMENT

This week we looked at loyalty that does not depend on blessings, faith that others are watching, questions God has not answered, and how to join with someone who is grieving. All of it rests on the hope that what we lose here is made right in the life to come.

Write one sentence that begins with the words “I will.” Make it something you can actually do in the next seven days, name the day you will do it, and tie it to one of this week’s five Briefings.

Example: I will text my friend who lost her dad on Thursday morning and ask if I can bring dinner on Saturday. When I go, I will sit with her instead of trying to explain her loss.

PRAYER

Bring what you just wrote to God. Write your prayer or pray out loud.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Romans 8:18 from memory.
