

Job – part 3

Luke 13:1-5

The Book of Job is a book of bad things happening for unseen reasons:

- Job has the potential to change much of our thinking about why things are the way they are.
- His story will help us come to grips with who we **really are**, what we **really have** and Who's **really in control**.

The book of Job is a forty-two-chapter illustration of how wrong we can be about God, ourselves, and others. Especially when things go badly.

- We think we know, and that is a big problem for us.
- When we ask questions like, “I wonder what I did wrong?” or “I wonder what they did?”, **wrapped up in those questions is the assumption** that we can really know the answer.
- God can and does explain Himself sometimes, but only when it is within our best interests.
- A smarter, better informed you is not necessarily a better you. Which do we need more: better understanding or a better trust?

Job leads us to some very disturbing conclusions. Job 2:1-10

- Job 1 and 2 are, undoubtedly, some of the most difficult chapters in the entire Bible.
- They are difficult because they call into question so many conclusions and assumptions that we have made about this life.
- There may or may not be a direct relationship between my behavior and what happens to me.
- Just because things are going badly for me doesn't mean that I'm bad or that God is upset with me.
- Just because things are going well for me doesn't mean that God approves of my life either.
- Am I cursed or am I blessed? **It's too early to tell!!!**
- We've seen good people who seem to be cursed and bad people who seem to be blessed—what they are or aren't remains to be seen—its too early to tell!
- Sometimes good people seem cursed—**Job 1:1**
- Sometimes bad people seem blessed –

How about Jesus Himself? Born in a stable to impoverished parents, worked as a manual laborer until He was 30, died a cruel death at 33 with only a handful of followers.

- Was He disobedient to God? Of course not! There was not a direct relationship between how He behaved, how the Father felt about Him and how His life played out one reason why the people of His day didn't think He was the Messiah is because they had bought into this base theology things go well for us, but is that the only time that God is good?
- God is equally good when things don't go well for us.

2. Bad weather faith – “fox hole faith” – when the chips are down, they cry out to God but when things go well, they act as if God does not exist.

- Again, this is a faith that makes deals, “if you get me out of this, Lord, I will serve you.”
- Fair weather and bad weather faiths **will fail you!**

3. All Weather Faith – Faith that does what's right because its right, not because of temporary rewards or payoffs but because He trusts the One who will make it all right in the end.

- A faith that knows we live in a devil dominated world where the good aren't necessarily rewarded and the bad aren't necessarily punished in the short run.
- It will all shake out in the end, but for now, it's too early to tell!!!**