

## Job – part 5

### Job 1:13-22

What would you do if you lost everything this year??

--Great way to start 2025?? Contemplating our total ruin!

This sort of thinking is something no one wants to do, but it may very well determine how happy/satisfied we are going to be this year.

--Do you want to be joyful and satisfied this year? Then, believe it or not, we need to take a look at the worst-case scenario (losing is all)

The facts are, you will lose it all, if not this year, some year—it will all leave you or you will leave all of it.

--Bigger barns may turn into just one casket: [Luke 12:16-20](#)

--Everything else in our lives is a variable to a greater or lesser extent, but this single issue is not.

What would you do if you lost it all? The answer is important because it is a tool by which we can evaluate where we currently stand.

--You say, “I trust in God” “God is my security” “My hopes are set in the Lord and not the world” etc. The test will be when you lose it all. But instead of waiting until then, let’s take a pre-test!

--Let’s say you are diagnosed with a terminal illness this year and aren’t around this time next year. What will you do?

--Probably the worse-case scenario, but it will give us a picture of how you will handle lesser tragedies (loss of income, stocks crash, loss of a loved one, loss of health)

### Thinking about these morbid things is probably not why you came to church!

--But it is questions that are inevitably raised by this disturbing book in the OT: [Job](#)

--Job loses everything but his life, his reaction demonstrated where his security was: [Job 1:21](#)

He was not getting what he did deserve = mercy; he was getting what he didn’t deserve = grace

--Everything he had come from God—God had a right to take it back without a warning or explanation.

--He gave without warning or explanation, why can’t He take under the same criterion?

--Are you OK with that?? It all came from God, He can take it back for no apparent reason...it is His stuff, you haven’t borrowed or leased it; you have no contract that says you’ve got a right to it under certain conditions.

--God’s just letting you enjoy His stuff because He’s good and He won’t be any less good if He takes it back, will He?

### 1. Taking a hard look at the worst-case scenario or lesser tragedies is important because it raises deeper questions like:

--Where is our security?

--Upon what do we truly depend?

### 2. Taking a hard look at losing it all is important because it is, actually, a requirement for discipleship: [Matt. 16:24-25](#); [Lk. 14:33](#)

--Discipleship means following Jesus—following Jesus may very well lead to a cross!! [Lk. 9:23](#) (Every day is a day I take a hard look at losing it all because it might be the day that I do!)

--Do you know why they divided Jesus’ clothes at the foot of the cross? He had no further need

of them!

--Discipleship is saying, "if God wills, we have no further need of whatever He takes from our lives."

### **3. Taking a hard look at losing it all is important because Satan makes a legitimate point here about Job and also about us.**

--"You've protected him, blessed him, he's healthy—no wonder he loves You—who wouldn't! But he only loves you for what you do for him; take it all away and he'll curse you."

--Satan insinuates that God can't be loved unless He buys that love by blessing Job or us.

--To a certain degree, I'd have to say Satan's right—a lot of people claim to love God because He's blessed them and really for no other reason.

--God can't be loved unless He buys that love from you?

--For that reason, I think we really need to know how we actually stand in 2025

--We are at church praising God, saying we love Him and will serve Him, but WHY? Because we feel blessed or because we are really His no matter what may come or go?

### **4. Taking a Hard look at losing it all is important because I believe it's a big key to being truly joyful and satisfied in this new year.** It helps me fix my hope on what I truly do have:

nothing but the Lord, I could possibly lose, and, eventually, will lose everything else.

--It helps me fix my hope on what matters: I am not getting what I really deserve, so even if I lose it all, it's still a good day!

It keeps me from finding my security in anything but the Lord

--This humbles me: all I have, the Lord has given to me, I haven't deserved it or earned it.

--Humility is great because it will mean I'm not as likely to be offended (it is hard to offend a humble person)

--This relieves me from many if not all my fears: what do we fear? Losing it all! As a committed disciple, I realize that could be what God calls for me, too. So when it does happen, I'm ready.

--Every day, I die to myself and my agenda and what I think I deserve and I take up my cross.

--Hard to scare a dead man!

There is something about living with the reality of things day in a day out that shores us up against what life or the devil can dish out.

Daily dying to self, daily taking up my cross, daily surrendering my life to the Lord's will: these are things that will bring us joy and peace.