

Job – part 6

Job 1:20-22

How would you have done under similar circumstances?

--There is a very good reason not to hold too tightly to the things in this world since we are guaranteed to lose it all. "Naked I came...Naked I shall return"

Last time, we saw that our contemplation of losing everything is important:

1. Because we **will** eventually lose it all.
2. Because it is a requisite for discipleship. **Lk. 9:23; Lk. 14:33**
3. Because it's a big key to being truly joyful and satisfied in life.

--Being a disciple is the key to happiness, giving up your hold your stuff, your plans, your agenda and following Jesus is the best thing you could ever do with yourself.

It makes me joyful and satisfied because 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.

--Having the Lord is a decision that you make, a personal decision and encounter where you trust Jesus to be your Savior.

--If you've not had that encounter, you need to get that taken care of because, right now, you would have absolutely nothing if you left this life.

--Not only do you not have your stuff (which is going to evaporate – I guarantee it, and you know it)-- but you don't have the Lord.

--Hell is going to be a horrible place – filled with people who will exist forever with absolutely nothing.

--They lost everything that they were counting on, and, concerning the one thing they could have had in this life and the life to come, they said, "I don't need Him." **Do not make that mistake.**

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

--There is great humility in realizing that we came naked into the world and naked we will return.

--There is great humility in taking up a cross. Its not our original cross; Jesus has taken that one for us.

--He gave up everything for us and took up our cross and paid for our sins.

--Now He asks that we give it all up for daily for Him--a reasonable request don't you think?

--Every day I die to myself and my stuff. There is a lot of humility and sobriety in that.

It relieves me from many if not all my fears:

--Think with me. What are the things we fear the most?

--I'm afraid my stuff is going to be stolen or destroyed. I'm afraid something is going to happen to my loved ones. I'm afraid of losing my health. Isn't that the way you are as well?

--If we will, every day, lay all that stuff down

-confess that those things don't provide our security

-every day dying to self, dying to our agenda,

-taking up our cross and following Jesus

-fear will have little power over us.

--"I cannot be robbed of anything that was ever actually mine." Isn't that an interesting statement?

It gives me the benefits of death without dying:

- Every day, I die to myself and my agenda
- Have you ever tried to scare a dead man?
- Threaten his possessions, his attachments, his life?—he won't be fazed.
- Do you see what the Lord is doing for us by calling us to take up our cross? He's making us impervious to trouble and fear in addition to arrogance and pride.
- Every day I experience this constant death to myself and constant living for the Lord, constantly taking up my cross
- If and when I do actually lose it all, it's not going to be near as big of a deal.

Do you know how to correctly interpret Job? Just let it say what it says!

- Too many people misinterpret Job because they can't take its implications/disturbing conclusions.
- They think, "Well, it says this, but what it really means is..." -- no, what it says is what it says!
- Our problem is that its conclusions are so disturbing that we want it to say something different somehow.

There are a lot of difficult passages in the Bible, and the reason why they're difficult is because we are difficult; we just simply don't want to accept them--we want it to be something different.

- We want God to be different.
- We want God to act the way we want Him to act.
- We want Heaven to be the way we want Heaven to be and life down here to be the way we want life to be.

--We're like a bunch of spoiled children--The fact is, we just need to take life for what it is and God for who He is, and where change is needed, we need to change.

But do not change the Bible to assuage your prejudices—you will feel better in the short run by twisting scripture, but you will not be happy in the end. Let it say what it says.

- Job 2:1-3** – "without cause" – There was not a direct link from what Job was experiencing to anything that he did.
- God calls Job a blameless and upright man—not an accolade that God bestows on many to be sure.
- Job 2:4-5** – Is this fair? After all he's already lost? After Job's perfect response in the previous chapter?

The first disturbing conclusion of Job is that life is not fair at all

- You may have thought was or could be; you want it to be, but it isn't and it never will be fair down here.
- In Heaven, in Hell, in eternity it will be completely fair, but it will never be down here.
- God is being gracious to sinners like and merciful.
- Grace and mercy are a lot things but they definitely are not fair!