

Living by Faith in a Sin-Cursed World

Job *Job 1–2*

Last week from Joseph's life the focus was on **understanding the fact** of God's providential control of circumstances in a sin-cursed world for the fulfillment of his sovereign purposes

➔ God's truth ("facts") is the content of true faith

So knowing this, how must you live in a sin-cursed world?

1. Job Lived in a Sin-Cursed World

1) Satan the prowling, killer of souls, 1:7; 2:2

"walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour," 1 Pet 5:8

- Satan was the instigator of sin's destructive effects, 1:9–11; 2:4–5
- Satan was the performer of sin's destructive effects,

2) Satan, the god of this world

- Instigated the Sabeans and Chaldeans to raid, 1:14, 17
(1) NB Satan worked through the sinful orientation, desires, and actions of the Sabeans, Chaldeans
- Destructive storms, 1:16, 18–19
- Physical maladies, 2:7, 12 (2 Cor 12:7)

3) The effects of sin on a godly saint

- Loss of livelihood, 1:13–17
- Loss of children, 1:18–19
- Great physical pain, suffering, and disfigurement, 2:7–8, 12, 13 (Job's friends couldn't recognize him)
- Temptation to apostatize, 2:9
- Abandoned by his spouse, none to help and support him, all against him
- Very great grief, 2:13

4) God blessed Job with a great family and material goods

- Seven sons and three daughters – contrary to the world's estimation, children are the Lord's blessing
- His possessions, 1:3 – he was a successful farmer
(1) This is a serious outfit Job has!!!
(2) Abundant land, servants, money, etc. to provide for all this

All these still the same today!!!

2. Job Lived a Godly Life in Every Experience in a Sin-Cursed World

1) Blameless and upright, 1:1, 8

- Character (who he was, the kind of person) and conduct (how he lived) of life before a righteous God

- Standard of living is not self but God's character and commands
- In his business, society, positions (“gate,” 29:7), toward the evil and the lowly, as a married man (31:1)
- Job did not have different morals for different situations
- Not sinless, but spiritually mature—
 - (1) one who is mature is steady, settled, even-keeled
 - (2) not flitting about from one thing to the next
 - (3) spiritually—settled on Christ, loving him 100% no matter what

2) Feared God, 1:1, 8

- Reverent faith in the Lord (knowledge, assent, unreserved trust)
- Exclusively loving, obeying, and worshiping him
- The One responsible to and will give an account to

3) Shunned evil, 1:1, 8

- Most believe Job lived between the time of the flood and Abraham
- Gen 8:21 “*The imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth*” thus the complete cleansing of the environment did not help, “*the wickedness of man was great in the earth...every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*” (6:3)
- Shun evil
 - (1) “Bad/evil” – for most an essential part of their entertainments
 - (2) Enjoy, dabble in, play with, experience, exhilarating, exciting, a thrill
 - (3) Shun - to avoid deliberately and habitually
- ➔ These two characteristics—fearing the Lord and shunning evil—can be summed up in one word: **Wisdom** (28:28, “*Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding*”).
 - **Wise people** fear the Lord at all times, while **foolish people** fake it until times are hard and then leave.
- ➔ Love what God loves, and hate what God hates

4) Led his family spiritually, 1:5

- What he did
 - (1) He would send and sanctify them
 - (2) He would offer burnt offerings for each
 - (3) Thus Job did regularly
- Why he did these things

- (1) His fear of God
- (2) His love for his children

- Job was the priest for his family—that’s how things were then – no priesthood, temple, or LC

5) Trusted the Lord, 1:20–22; 2:10

Note four actions showing his trust in the Lord:

- Job remembered his true state, “*naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there*”
 - (1) You came into life with nothing
 - (2) You will leave life with nothing
 - (3) Anything you have and experience in between ultimately is of the Lord
- Job recognized God’s absolute sovereignty, “*the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away*”
 - Job did not blame Satan (or the Sabbeans, Chaldeans, the weather)
- Job praised the Lord, “*blessed be the name of the Lord.*”
- Job submitted to God’s plan, “*Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?*” (2:10 [])
- 2:10 most say that when bad things happen that proves God doesn’t exist (“how could a good God let this happen?”)
 - (1) **Job says the opposite:** good and hardship come from God

Ecclesiastes 7:14
In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing that will come after him.

Lamentations 3:38
Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that woe and well-being proceed?
 - (2) Job had no Bible, no church, no sermons to listen to, no Christian self-help books to read...
 - (3) yet Job’s belief and trust in God’s sovereignty puts most believers with all such resources to shame who modify/deny this.

- How could Job respond like this when most people would respond like his wife?

6) Spotless character, 2:3, 9 “*still he holds fast to his integrity*”

- Satan accused Job of being selfish, 1:9-11
 - Job played along with living for God because of what he got out of it
- Satan accused Job of being a hypocrite—
 - (1) “Job only lives this way because you protect him”
 - (2) “Stop protecting him and you’ll see Job for who he really is”

- Whether prosperity or adversity, woe or well-being, Job lived a consistent, faithful godly life
- Why do you worship the Lord with us today? What's your motivation?
 - (1) What do you hope to gain?
 - (2) Will you continue if your life gets harder?
 - (3) More pain?
 - (4) More sorrow?
- If you live and serve the Lord because you love him, then you'll live and serve him no matter what—pure motives, spotless character, integrity

7) God's assessment, 1:8; 2:3 "There is none like him on the earth"

- This is the Lord God's response to Job's life
- Whether great affluence and family happiness or destitute, grieving, and experiencing utter suffering

Conclusion

☞ Live a faithful, Christ-like life in every circumstance, experience, and feeling in this sin-cursed world.

When Job had everything, he loved the Lord and lived like it.

When Job lost everything in just a few minutes, he loved the Lord and lived like it.

Woe is me – great is the Lord

I am undone – I am in Christ

I've lost everything I loved in this world – I have everything because Christ loves me

The Lord gave – the Lord has taken away

Blessed be the name of the Lord – blessed be the name of the Lord

1. **Christian, your character, conduct, and commitments must never be dependent on circumstances. Never.**

- 1) Whether great affluence and family happiness or destitute, grieving, and experiencing utter suffering
- 2) Will there be a difference how you live before Christ if everything falls apart?
 - Are you living like you should now?
 - Your character
 - Your obedience to Christ
 - Your commitment to the local church with and for your family
- 3) God is absolutely sovereign over everything, so whether your experience is pleasant or unpleasant you must submit to and bless him, 1:21; 2:10

2. **Truth faith and trust in God does not depend on circumstances; "The Lord gave..."**

- 1) We try to solve the problem of evil, and every time...

- We go past God's Word, what he has revealed and said
- We more often than not end up denying an essential aspect of God, his sovereignty, omnipotence, etc.
- We also more often than not end up exalting our place and role in the universe

2) The farthest you can go is to trust the Lord. Period.

- And that's hard because sin's effects in us wants answers we can understand—live by sight

3. You must...

- 1) Be blameless and upright
- 2) Fear the Lord
- 3) Shun evil
- 4) Lead your family spiritually
- 5) Trust the Lord
- 6) Spotless character

➔ Then, "well-done, good and faithful servant"