

Trusting God's Plan and Not Our Own

Job 2

Introduction: In Job 1, we read how Job did not curse God in his suffering when his worldly possessions were taken away. In Job 2, Satan comes back again saying Job will curse God if his health is taken away. We pick up the story in Job 2:9.

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. 8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. 9 His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. 12 When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. 13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

1. What is it that we often take for granted until it is gone? Recall Luther's explanation of the First Article of the Creed. Why does God provide for us? What is our duty?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

2. How does Job display his faith once more?

3. Consider the 6th petition to the Lord's Prayer and explanation. What happened in the heart of his wife?

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**

4. What do Job's friends do upon their arrival? How can it be said that they are they off to a good start? **Romans 12:15-** Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

5. Unfortunately things went south with Job's friends. Their overarching belief was that Job was suffering because he had done something wrong. As a result, they repeatedly encourage Job to admit his wrong and repent so that God would bless him again. God clearly condemned their advice: *"I am angry with you [Eliphaz] and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me"* ([Job 42:7](#)). Job called them "miserable comforters" (16:2), and he spends almost the whole book arguing with them. We will examine their specific arguments later in this Bible study.

- According to the verse above, why is God upset with Job's friends? You notice God is not mad because they did a terrible job being friends. Why is it so important to give an accurate picture of God?

6. Does suffering always indicate a specific sin? Read what Jesus had to say about this.

Luke 13:1-5 - *There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

- What does Jesus say about those who suffered and those who were killed?
- What is the message he gives to all of us in vs. 5? How is that a fitting message? What are we often tempted to believe in regard to suffering? How would this be damaging to our walk with God?