

JOB

A PATH THROUGH SUFFERING

SERMON NOTES

Week 1 June 18, 2023

"Questions of Suffering"

Job 1:1-3, 8-12, 20-21; Job 38:2



I. Introduction

A. When we go through seasons of suffering it is so natural to ask the question "_____?"

B. The book of Job gives us _____ on addressing the 'why' questions of suffering:

1) Avoid pat answers. 2) Embrace living without an answer. 3) Anticipate the final answer.

II. Avoid Pat Answers

A. There are generally two basic ways in which people _____ to suffering.
1) Moralism. 2) Cynicism.

B. The Hebrew word 'satan' describes any _____ that stands "opposed to" or as "an adversary" to someone else.

C. God only allows Satan to accomplish the very _____ of what he wanted to accomplish.

III. Embrace Living Without an Answer

A. God is saying, "Job serves me out of love." Satan says "no he doesn't, he serves you because the things he is getting. It's the _____ he loves."

B. The only way to be sure to serve God for who he is, rather than what you are getting out of it, is that you need to be in a position where serving God gives you _____ in return.

IV. Anticipate the Final Answer

A. We need to grab onto the theology of _____ when we are suffering.

B. The posture that we need, in order to walk down this path of suffering without knowing the exact reasons that it's happening, is we need to believe that God _____ us.

C. When Jesus died on the cross it _____ that God loves us.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



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INTRODUCTION

No book in all of literature addresses the questions of suffering and evil with the spiritual wisdom of the book of Job. The book of Job shows us how the Christian approach to suffering differs from both cynical and moralistic viewpoints.

Monday: Job 1:1-3, 8

The introduction to the book of Job makes it clear that he was a very wealthy and blessed man as well as a man of faith. Do you think it is easier or more difficult to give to God when you have lots of possessions like Job?

Tuesday: Job 1:9-17

The multiplied financial losses, the emotional heartbreak of the deaths of all his children, and the personal physical suffering Job would soon experience did not come as punishment for anything he did or failed to do. God permitted these tragedies for purposes far greater than Job or others in this story would ever fully grasp. How might economic hardships affect our heart toward sacrificial giving? How might they stop us from moving forward in the direction God is leading?

Wednesday: Job 1:18-19

From a human, observable perspective, Job was the victim of criminal and natural disasters. From a biblical perspective, we know these events were not random but allowed by God and caused by Satan. One of the great biblical truths is found in the Book of Job: God is in control of the events in this world, including those in our lives. Why are we so quick to question God when suffering happens?

Thursday: Job 1:20-22

Amazingly, Job's first instinct moved him to submit and surrender to God. This is the first step forward. The last phrase, "Praise the name of the LORD," showed Job's understanding of God's sovereignty. Since all he had belonged to the Lord, God could take it back at any time. In all of this, not once did Job question God's justice, love, wisdom, or sovereignty. How might faith in God sustain you in the face of similar losses?

Friday: Job 1:1-22

God did not allow Satan to bring suffering into Job's life for the sole purpose of proving Satan wrong. God knew Job's faith was real and did not need this test to discover that truth. Why do you think God allowed Job's suffering?

MOVING FORWARD

When going through seasons of suffering, Christians are called to hold onto the mystery and stay in a relationship with a God we cannot control but whose goodness we cannot doubt when we truly grasp the Gospel. The key to walking through times of suffering is understanding and trusting that God loves us. God demonstrated his love for us through the death of His Son, the innocent sufferer, on the cross.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) why, B) advice. IIA) respond, B) person, C) opposite.
IIIA) things, B) nothing. IVA) grace, B) loves, C) proves.*