

Faith Tested - John 1:8-22 - June 6, 2021

I. Permission Granted - Job 1:8-12

1. Asked (by God) about Job - Satan
 - A. At verse 1 we know Job was innocent
 - B. Here we see he is a “servant”
 - Rea C. Lengthy description of his “uprightness” (**verse 8**)
 - D. Righteousness grounded in his willingness to “fear God”
2. Yeah but... why does he fear God? (**Verse 9**)
 - Rea -you are usually wrong when you start out with a “yeah but”
 - A. Was it because Job wanted to prosper?
 - B. You’ve been so good to him - that’s why he fears you
3. Scripture does say that God rewards the righteous
-but we are to do right regardless of the “blessing” or not
4. You’ve protected him (**verse 10**)
-you’ve blessed his herds
5. The adversary proposes a test (**verse 11**)
-he did not live a perfect life, but he lived a righteous life
-if you take all this away Job will “curse you to your face”
- Rea 6. A wonderful question - why do YOU serve God?
-the implication is that Job served God to get something from Him - and the temptation is certainly a very real one
7. God gives Satan permission to take/ afflict what he has but not to touch him - personally (**verse 12**)
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. This is THE question of Job (the book) - why do we serve God?
-what happens when our way is not “blessed” as we see blessing
-what is TRUE blessing?
 2. The assertion of Job’s innocence cannot be stressed too loudly - we mostly see bad things happening to us as punishment from God - I must’ve done something wrong
 3. It is the Question of Evil - see CS Lewis book of that name

II. Attack Executed - Job 1:13-19

1. A list of tragedy ensues (**verse 13**)
 - children die
 - the Sabeans kill herds (**verses 14-15**)
 - servants killed
 - fire fell from heaven and killed sheep (**verse 16**)
2. Rapid fire reporting of the troubles
3. Enemies, winds, fire, etc
- Rea 4. Quickly “blessing” is turned to tragedy
5. Chaldeans raided (**verse 17**)
6. A mighty wind (**verse 18-19**)
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. How quickly everything can change
 2. Are Christian people immune from suffering? - discuss

3. Doesn't God punish people
 - or discipline His people?
 - or prune His people?
4. In the big picture why would God allow this?

III. Trust Maintained - Job 1:20-22

1. Job is brought to his knees (**verse 20**)
 - tore his clothes in grief
 - shaved his head
 - fell to the ground in worship
- Rea 2. Our writer says God "took" these things from Job
 - God "allowed" these things - there's a difference
3. Naked came I (**verse 21**)
 - the Lord gives and the Lord takes away - blessed be His name
- Rea -he is still devoted to God - does not get mad at God and quit going to church.

Job is definitely a better man than I am. If you truly believe that God is sovereign,

then such things are a problem. If you believe in a Deist God who simply "watches" - then this is no problem... after all "things happen."
4. Most of us don't suffer like Job did
 - Most of us don't have the faith that Job did
5. He did not sin - by charging God with wrongdoing (**verse 22**)
 - whatever God does is always right, even when it doesn't look like it
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Job is the oldest book in the Bible - it deals with this oldest of all problems - the problem of pain - and why does God allow it
2. Grief is okay - I guess
 - he cries
 - he doesn't just sit around and say "well they're in a better place"
3. We know the end of the story - God restores all, but Job did not
4. Our theological doctrines are always tried... and our theological grids are all empty
 - we pride ourselves in 2021 on our doctrines, making them into a pathway of salvation, a pathway to "get what we want" from God, making them into the center of spiritual life. When pressed up against real life, theology does not always "fit" or answer our most pressing questions. To live without questions is a pipe dream.