

## Beyond the Bitter to the Better

### Has My Trial Made Me Bitter or Better?

**Job 2:1-10 (CEV)** - Job Loses His Health

**2** When the angels gathered around the LORD again, Satan was there with them, <sup>2</sup> and the LORD asked, “Satan, where have you been?”

Satan replied, “I have been going all over the earth.”

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD asked, “What do you think of my servant Job? No one on earth is like him—he is a truly good person, who respects me and refuses to do evil. And he hasn’t changed, even though you persuaded me to destroy him for no reason.”

<sup>4</sup> Satan answered, “There’s no pain like your own. People will do anything to stay alive. <sup>5</sup> Try striking Job’s own body with pain, and he will curse you to your face.”

<sup>6</sup> “All right!” the LORD replied. “Make Job suffer as much as you want, but just don’t kill him.” <sup>7</sup> Satan left and caused painful sores to break out all over Job’s body—from head to toe.

<sup>8</sup> Then Job sat on the ash-heap to show his sorrow. And while he was scraping his sores with a broken piece of pottery, <sup>9</sup> his wife asked, “Why do you still trust God? Why don’t you curse him and die?”

<sup>10</sup> Job replied, “Don’t talk like a fool! If we accept blessings from God, we must accept trouble as well.” In all that happened, Job never once said anything against God.

This morning we have read from a familiar passage of Scripture.

- We all know of the suffering of Job.
- He was **a man who loved God** and yet in a few moments time,
- **he lost all he had**.

**Although he lost** his wealth, his family, and his health, **Job never lost his faith**. In the midst of all his suffering, Job held fast unto the Lord.

**Job 19:25** – For I know that my redeemer **lives**, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. **He realized a great truth in his trial - that God had not forsaken him and that He was in control.**

***Job's life stands as a testimony for each of us today.***

- There have been **many who have abandoned their faith for much less.**
- **As we encounter the trials of life**, they will have an effect on us.
- In them we will become bitter or we will become **better**.

As we look at the certainties of these verses, **I want to consider this question:**

Has my trial made me bitter or better?

**The Character of Job** – Job2:3

<sup>3</sup>Then the LORD asked, “What do you think of my servant Job? No one on earth is like him—he is a truly good person, who respects me and refuses to do evil. And he hasn’t changed, even though you persuaded me to destroy him for no reason.”

**I want to look at Job's character** in detail in a moment, but before we do there is something that we need to consider.

**We live in a day where many preach and believe that only the wicked suffer.**

There is a movement in our land that teaches that it isn't God's will for us to suffer.

**If we face difficulties in life**, then our faith has wavered or we have wandered from God.

**This is not a biblical doctrine.** We will see in ***the character of Job*** a man who loved God and lived for Him.

**2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)** - In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

- **When trials come don't immediately begin to question and look for failures in life.**
- God does use trials at times to chasten His children, but
- just because a trial has come is no clear indication that you have missed God's will or strayed from Him.

**Job suffered and we will as well** - The important aspect of suffering is how we come through our trial on the other side.

In our times of suffering **will we be able to** maintain our character before the Lord?

Notice the character of Job while enduring a trial. We see:

**A. A Man of Respect** – *Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him;*

God had asked the same question of Satan prior to his 1<sup>st</sup> attack, and here we find God asking the same question.

**Job had already lost his wealth and his family** and he is still recognized as a man who stands above the rest. **God was aware of the life of Job.**

**Those around him could see** that he was a man of God and lived for Him.

**How do you stand in the midst of trials?**

Could the Lord say the same of you?

Do those around you notice ***that you are walking with God*** even though difficulties have come?

Even in the midst of trials we need to maintain our integrity. The world is watching our lives.

**“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.” - Corrie Ten Boom**

If we can ***let our faith in God show*** even in hard times, then we have succeeded in being ***an effective witness.***

**It is easy to live for God** when the sun is shining, but it is sometimes hard ***in the storm.***

Job was consistent in his walk with God! **Are we bitter in trials or better?**

**B. A Man of Reverence** – No one on earth is like him—he is a truly good person, who respects me and refuses to do evil.

It would have been easy for Job to have questioned God and accused Him of neglecting him.

**We find nothing in the life of Job to reveal that he lost his reverence for God.**

Many times when trials come we are tempted to question the Lord.

- Why has this happened **to me?**
- God why did you allow this to come in my life **if you love me?**
- In those times it is ***easy to wander from God*** and get entangled in sin.

**Satan would have you believe** that God doesn't love you and there is no use to continue for him.

I have seen many ***grow bitter*** toward God when trials come. **NOT BETTER!!!**

**C. A Man of Resolve** (3c) – And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

**Job had already suffered greatly at the hand of Satan and yet he remained committed to the Lord.**

- He wasn't about to abandon the One who had blessed him with all that he had.
- Job had lost his family and all that he had worked for and yet he worshipped the Lord.
- **He realized that God had given and God had taken away.**

**If our service to the Lord revolves** around blessings then we will likely become **bitter** when they are taken away.

**If our service revolves** around our love for Him no matter what, **then we will likely become better through trials.**

**The Character of Job** ^^^

## The Calamity of Job

A. The Source of His Trial – There came a day in Job’s life when **Satan began to accuse him before God.**

- He was walking to and fro in the earth, seeking someone to attack.
- This was nothing new. **Satan appeared to Adam in the garden.**

**God isn’t your problem in trials.**

1 Pet.5:8 – *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*

**Every child of God will face the attack of the enemy.**

He desires nothing more than to defeat and destroy **those who are living for the Lord.**

I don’t want to alarm you, but being a child of God has made you a target for Satan, especially if you are being a witness for the Lord.

B. The Severity of His Trial – (In Chp.1) - We find that Job was a wealthy man with a large family. **He was blessed** with herds, servants, sons, and daughters.

**On that day Job lost all of his wealth,** most of his servants, and all his children.

In the verses we’ve read today, **we find him mourning his losses** and Satan touches his body with boils from the top of his head to the sole of his feet.

**Trials of life will come our way.**

### 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

- They may become more than we can bear.
- **It is in those times that we must learn to trust in the Lord.**
- Job would’ve never made it without God’s hand of mercy.
- He of all people could’ve become bitter toward God.....

## He chose to worship instead.

- You may be in a trial today, but remember ***things could always be worse.***
- I don't know of a one of us who has suffered as Job did and yet he made it.

C. The Sovereignty of His Trial – **The enemy had come to attack Job**, but God had set some boundaries.

He would only let Satan go so far. Even in Job's misery, **God was still in control.**

## You may be here today and feel as if you've almost been destroyed.

- Just remember that Satan has to get permission from the Lord.
- He can only go as far as God permits.
- Thank God for the hedge that He has placed around us.
- There will be times when God allows Satan to come in, but he can only go so far.
- He will eventually reach the point where **God says that's enough**; you can't go any farther.

Life will bring some difficult days, but ***we are never out of the Lord's sovereign control!***

**Satan desired to sift Peter as wheat, and he did, but Jesus prayed for Peter. When it seems as if your world is falling apart, take comfort in knowing to whom you belong!**

## The Character of Job - The Calamity of Job

**The Consolation of Job** – Things looked dark for Job, but he had not been forsaken.

God wasn't about to abandon Job in his time of need.

- There were some difficult days ahead, but his hope would be restored.
- **Trials of life will come**, but they won't last forever!!!
- Just as Job found **consolation** we shall as well.

Let's look at Job's consolation and how the Lord blessed him in the end.

Turn with me to **Chp.42. Notice:**

**A. God Received Him –**

**Job 42:8 (CEV)** - So I want you to go over to Job and offer seven bulls and seven goats on an altar as a sacrifice to please me. After this, Job will pray, and I will agree not to punish you for your foolishness.

- Much of the book of Job records the conversation with Job and his friends.
- Much of what they had to say were accusations against Job
- And what he had done to deserve God's wrath.

**In the end God commanded them to offer a sacrifice and seek Job to pray for them.**

- Through all of the suffering Job never dishonored the Lord.
- He remained faithful and God honored him among men.

**The Lord is mindful of the life we live before others.**

- A faith that honors God, especially in trials, will be honored by God.
- If we can resist becoming bitter,
- God will make us better when the trial has ended.

**B. God Restored Him – At the beginning of the trial, Job lost all that he had, but God gave him over and above what he had lost.**

- So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning.

**When facing trials it may seem that all is lost, but we serve One who is well able restore our souls.**

God may well have taken away to provide something far better!

If you will **remain steadfast the Lord** will take care of you in your hour of need.

**C. God Reminded Him – God has reminded Job of His faithfulness and it is reflected in his daughter’s names.**

The Bible records only the names of **the three daughters of Job**. There is *great significance in these names*.

**He named the first Jemima**, which means **“day.”** Job had endured a long night of suffering, but the day had dawned again.

Ps.30:5 – *weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*

**You may be in the midst of a dark night of affliction, but joy will come when the new day breaks!**

**He named the second Kezia**, which “comes from the name of a bark used for fragrant perfume.” The life of Job had endured the stench of suffering and death.

There was little fragrance to enjoy in his misery, but God had provided a sweet smelling savor at the end of his trial.

**Job’s sorrow had been replaced with the sweetness of God’s grace.**

**He named the third Keren-Happuch** which literally means “a box of eye paint.”

**It spoke of her radiant beauty.** This word was also used in reference to the face of Moses as he descended from the mountain with his face aglow of the glory of God.

- **Much of what Job had endured was of misery and dread.**
- **He had suffered much pain and despair,**
- **but now he enjoyed the radiant glory of God.**

**Our lives will have those dark hours**, but aren’t you glad for those times **when the storm has ended** and we are able to enjoy the glory of God once again?

**CLOSE:**

**There is a better day ahead.**

**I don't know where you are in life today.**

You may be in the midst of the most difficult and trying time you've ever endured.

Your trial will either make you bitter or better.

**Has My Trial Made Me Bitter or Better?**

**The choice is yours to make.**

**Job chose to allow his trial to make him better and it did.**

**What about you?**

Have you faced some things that have made you angry at God?

Do you need to come and seek His help in your life?

You can come through your trial a better person, but it will require God's help.

Won't you come as the Lord leads?

***"Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it."***