



IMAGO DEI: Made in the Image of God – A Look at **Suffering**.

ADAM LONG | Week of Sunday August 9th, 2020

SERMON TEXTS // Job 1:1-3 & 6-12 English Standard Version

¹There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ²There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.

⁶Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ⁸And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" ⁹Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason?" ¹⁰Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." ¹²And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS // Genesis 6:5-8; Job 37:1-13; Job 38:1-5; Job 42:10-17

SERMON SUMMARY // When God made man in His image (*Latin: imago Dei*) this were very good. A very bad thing entered that very good picture: sin. Sin is any transgression against God. It is cosmic treason committed against the God who created us in His own image for His own good pleasure. When sin entered the story of creation it broke the **imago Dei** - and brought with it a host of difficulties for God's image-bearers - all of which fall under the umbrella of **suffering**.

SERMON GUIDE // Having a basic theology of suffering will provide us a solid foundation for suffering, in order for us to prevail *through* suffering, while we are *in* a time of suffering. Job's story is just one of hundreds in Scripture that teach us these truths that:

- We can see God's **purpose** for suffering.
- We can see God's **sovereignty** through suffering.
- We can see God's **grace** in suffering.



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Question 1 // What is something from the text that resonated with you, a truth that encouraged you, or even a question you may have surrounding the texts theme?

Question 2 // God created man in His image. (Genesis 1:26-27) When man rebelled against God sin entered the picture and brought with it brokenness and this brokenness led to suffering and ultimately death. The imago Dei was broken. We learn from the story of Job, and throughout Scripture that God has a **purpose** for suffering. But we also see that God does not always reveal that purpose to us. ***Do you find it difficult to separated the ideas that God, at times, allows or decrees suffering to fall on His children and other times He allows it for His purposes? Why or why not? Take some time to have an open and honest dialogue about your personal theology of suffering with the group.***

Question 3 // From Job's perspective – it looks like God is unjust. But his perspective is limited. God's perspective is infinitely bigger. The truth is: even if he wanted to – Job could never fully comprehend the complexity of God's wisdom. Suffering, when viewed from the proper perspective, enables us to trust in the **sovereignty** of God. Sovereignty simply means God has total and utter dominion over every single atom in the universe. ***How does the theology of God's sovereignty resonate with you? Based on your answer, how does that effect the way you personally view suffering? Sovereignty is big! So spend some time as group discussing your thoughts.***

Question 4 // God never tells Job that He allowed satan to bring this suffering upon Him. But He also never tells him about how He praised Job right to the face of satan – twice! (Job 1:8 & 2:3) God spoke so highly of Job! And thought so highly of His image-bearer that He allowed him to experience this level of suffering. It is by the **grace** of God that Job was entrusted to walk through this suffering as well as when God blessed him by restoring his life back twofold. (Job 42:10-17) ***If comfortable, please share with the group a time you felt the grace of God during a time or season of suffering. How did it grow you in regards to future suffering you have or will experience?***

Reflection & Prayer

Job's suffering was solely based out of the grace of God over his life. Let us pray that the only suffering we experience is also by His grace, for His grace, and under His grace.

REFLECT. II POINT. II MAKE.