



Lessons from Job

As our worship this week focuses on Job, it is important for us to seek lessons from the book that can be applied to us today. For me, I immediately think of the war in Ukraine and the calamity falling upon our Christian brothers and sisters. As **Job 1:13-19** recounts, his earthly possessions and children were taken away from him due to the works of Satan. When Job heard this terrible news, he

*arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong. **Job 1:20-22 (ESV)***

When Satan saw Job's response to the loss of his possessions and children, he then attacked his health.

*Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. **Job 2:9-10 (ESV)***

The faith of those Christian women and children who have gone to Sopot, Poland and elsewhere in Europe to find refuge from the evil being unleashed on their families and possessions back in Ukraine parallels what I read in Job. Also, the Christian men and missionaries who remained behind who are sacrificing their safety and perhaps their lives in Ukraine. As James recorded about these events

As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have

*heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. **James 5:10-11 (ESV)***

I believe we will be talking about the faith and patience of these Ukrainian Christians long into the future.

So, what should we do? We do not want to be like Job's friends. God said in **Job 42:7 (ESV)**

“My anger burns against you <Eliphaz> and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.”

We should be more like the early church and their response to their fellow brethren who were in need.

*At present, however, I <Paul> am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. **Romans 15:25-27 (ESV)***

So let us all continue in prayer for our Christian family in war torn areas of the world and look for ways to help them in their need.

- Roger King