

Turn in your Bibles tonight to the book of Job and we will be looking at Chapter 18 and 19 this evening. As you are turning just a few thoughts to begin with tonight. In Chapter 1, we were introduced to Job, and we saw the wealth he had, as well as his fear, obedience, love for the Lord. We saw his love for his family and the concern he had for his children to fear, obey, and love the Lord as well.

All this was shared up to verse 5 and if this story had stopped right there, then, well first, we wouldn't have the rest of the book of Job. Seriously, all would have been good, and we probably would not have heard much more about Job. But that was only scene one of this drama. The curtain fell on that scene and then the curtains were opened on the heavenly conversation between God and Satan that we have mentioned several times.

God asks Satan, "Where on earth did you come from?" Satan says exactly that, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." Then God 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 from evil?"*** By the end of this conversation, God, had allowed Satan to go and take everything Job had.

The curtain falls and when it is opened the scene of Job losing his children, his possessions and though he lost everything, Job falls on the ground and said these words.

***Job 1:21-22***

***<sup>21</sup> 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 by the name of the Lord." <sup>22</sup> In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.***

Again, if that was all there was, then we would be good, but the curtain is opened up on another heavenly scene and once again Satan is standing before God. God again asks Satan, once again, ***"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? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason."***

Satan says, "Skin for Skin!" Take his health and he will curse you! It has been said, "Our health is our wealth!" I agree with that statement. When we are in constant pain or battling a sickness does any of our possessions really matter? God relents and allows Satan to attack Job's health. Job is stricken with sores all over his body. If that was not bad enough Job's wife looks at him and says, "Do you hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" Before we are too harsh on her, remember what Matthew pointed out, Mrs. Job had lost everything as well. She was handling it a bit different than Job was.

Even with all that Job says this to his wife, "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 lip.

Again, if we stopped right there, we would be leaving off at a pretty good spot. But that was not all. We have Job's three friends show up, yes, in their willingness to help, but also in their piety to tell Job we know what is best, we know God better than you, you are wrong and you need to tell us what you have done. Once again tonight, we see Bildad come at Job with a ferocity that we have seen recently from Zophar.

Even in Job's suffering he has a word for Bildad and his friends and for all of us that can change a lot of things in our lives. Things continue to stay pretty heated between Job and his friends. Let's begin, Job Chapter 18, verses 1 to 4.

**Job 18:1-4**

***<sup>1</sup> Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: <sup>2</sup> "How long will you hunt for words? Consider, and then we will speak. <sup>3</sup> Why are we counted as cattle? Why are we stupid in your sight? <sup>4</sup> You who tear yourself in your anger, shall the earth be forsaken for you, or the rock be removed out of its place?"***

Matthew, Tim, and I are trying really hard not to be too repetitive with what is going on here between Job and his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. It's hard not to be because these men keep bringing up the same accusations, the same arguments against Job.

1. God is just! God punishes the wicked and blesses the righteous.
2. You had to sin Job for all this to happen to you. You're wicked, you're a hypocrite, you might not even be saved.
3. Just repent Job, confess what you have done.

Job is being a little repetitious himself. As he continues to defend himself, in the fact that he keeps telling his dear friends he has done nothing wrong, and I am seeking God for an answer.

In fact, Bildad starts out his second answer to Job with the same words he did back in Chapter 8 of verse 2, of which I taught as well. Bildad said, ***"How long will you say these things and the words of your mouth be a great wind?"*** You are just a blow hard Job! We hear again from Bildad! Look at verses 1 and 2:

**Job 18:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: <sup>2</sup> "How long will you hunt for words? Consider, and then we will speak."***

I see Bildad standing up at this point. Job you might want to think a bit more before you speak. In verse 3, Bildad, told Job, evidently you think we are stupid, as if we are as stupid as cattle! Us, do you not know how intelligent we are, do you not know how spiritually mature we are? Do you know how much schooling we have?

Well, one thing I have learned in this life. It does not matter how much or how little education you have, how well read, or not how well read you are. When it comes to being prideful, arrogant, self-righteous, slanderous, we are all on the same playing field where that is sinful.

Where all that stems from is, we think everything is about us. Bildad accuses Job of that very thing in verse 4. Do you think the world has just stopped Job? Do you think nothing else is happening in this world? Do you think no one else is suffering? What's that very popular saying? The world does not revolve around you, Job? Do you know how pompous and wicked that is?

With that thought, Bildad, decides he needs to remind Job the punishment that will come upon the wicked, of who reject God and reject his truth of their need of salvation. Let's read verses 5 and 6.

**Job 18:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup> Indeed, the light of the wicked is put out and the flame of his fire does not shine. <sup>6</sup> The light is dark in his tent, and his lamp above him is put out."***

Light in Scripture refers to life as much as darkness refers to sin and death. As we all know, life is precious, and we try to hold on to it as much as possible. Let's be honest, we all try to fill our lives with things that make us happy. Vacations, homes, cars, boats, motorcycles, hobbies, pleasure, even our jobs! Nothing wrong with those things unto themselves, but if they dim our passions, our faithfulness, our obedience to the Lord, then they can become idols and then SIN.

Picture this! We are talking about the timeframe of around 1500 to 1200 B.C. How were they living back then? Mostly tents, though it is apparent from Chapter 1 that Job's children were in a building as it's four walls fell in on them. How did they cook and keep warm? Fire.

Bildad depicts the life of a person that is lost, wicked. Though the light of physical life is in him, he lives in a dark state because of the unrepentant and wicked heart that lies within his soul. His life, just like the fire that would have to be kept burning to be able to cook food or keep warmth in their tent will one day go out as the last ember of fire is extinguished.

Picture inside the tent of where this person dwells. The best place to have light dispersed in the tent is to hang the lamp in the middle of the tent where the tent peaks. Once that lamp is extinguished, darkness. Think about for us, think about a room in our house. The light is on in a room, and with one flick of a finger on a light switch, darkness and the light is gone.

Bildad continues to give this description of what awaits the wicked and he intensifies his comments. Look at verses 14 to 18.

***Job 18:14-18***

***<sup>14</sup> He is torn from the tent in which he trusted and is brought to the king of terrors. <sup>15</sup> In his tent dwells that which is none of his; sulfur is scattered over his habitation. <sup>16</sup> His roots dry up beneath, and his branches wither above. <sup>17</sup> His memory perishes from the earth, and he has no name in the street. <sup>18</sup> He is thrust from light into darkness, and driven out of the world.***

The tent reference here is once again a reference that encompasses the dwelling place or the life of this person. So many people have and will continue to put their trust in this world. Money, pleasure, fame, themselves, false religions of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Roman Catholicism, Mormonism, Jehovah Witness, Satanism, Evolution, Communism, Socialism, Marxism.

You may say, "Wait a minute! I thought Evolution was science. I thought Communism, Socialism, Marxism were political constructs." No, anything that says that God is not absolutely and solely, the God of the Bible is a false religion. Anything or anyone who does not say that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Christ and the only pathway to salvation is a false religion.

Anything or anyone that does not say that Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is the only atonement for our sin, which is met with a broken and contrite heart that says I am a sinner and repents in brokenness and then denies themselves and follows Jesus in a life of obedience unto a living sacrifice of righteous living is a false religion unto themselves.

Any manmade construct, whether it tries to pass itself off as science or a government construct of some sort of utopia here on earth, that attempts to eliminate God from all aspects of life is a false religion.

Those that have put their trust in these things, it is as if they are torn from that tent of belief, as they are faced with the king of terrors which is death. Death is a terror to those that have not put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ whether they realize this or not.

But, for a believer, we can say what the Apostle Paul said:

**2 Timothy 4:7-8**

***<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.***

**1 Corinthians 15:55-57**

***<sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Bildad is here detailing to Job what happens to the wicked. Why? Because he is telling Job he is one of the wicked, but Bildad is forgetting something. We all face death! ***Well, Pastor Dale, aren't you just a breath of fresh air!*** Job explained correctly in Chapter 1 when he said these words:

**Job 1:21**

***<sup>21</sup> 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.”***

There is hope, and we will get to that hope in a few moments. But until then! Job has once again had enough of his friend's encouragement, and he responds to Bildad. Let's read verses 1 to 3 in Chapter 19.

**Job 19:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> Then Job answered and said: <sup>2</sup> How long will you torment me and break me in pieces with words? <sup>3</sup> These ten times you have cast reproach upon me; are you not ashamed to wrong me?”***

Bildad is giving Job this description of what happens to the wicked is because, Why? Bildad is still accusing Job of being the wicked person here. What does Job keep telling his encouraging friends? I have done nothing wrong! We are commanded to go to a brother we see in sin. There are times we all may need to be reproved. If we biblically have the grounds to do the reproving, may I say, try to get as much of the facts you can. Go with a heart of humility, compassion, and love.

Our words can either build up or tear down! Our words can bring healing or bring pain!

**Proverbs 18:21**

***<sup>21</sup> Death and Life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.***

Job continues to share with his friends what he is feeling and what he is going through. What we can find out though in some situations is that the ones we thought we could depend on the most are the first to turn against us. Sometimes we can feel like the whole world is against us. Job describes this to his friends as he had wished for some comfort from Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. Look at verses 13 to 19 of Chapter 19.

**Job 19:13-19**

***<sup>13</sup> “He has put my brothers far from me, and those who knew me are wholly estranged from me. <sup>14</sup> My relatives have failed me, my close friends have forgotten me. <sup>15</sup> The guests in my house and my maidservants count me as a stranger; I have become a foreigner in their eyes. <sup>16</sup> I call to my servant, but he gives me no answer; I must plead with him with my mouth for mercy. <sup>17</sup> My breath is strange to my wife, and I am a stench to the children of my own mother. <sup>18</sup> Even young children despise me; when I rise they talk against me. <sup>19</sup> All my intimate friends abhor me, and those whom I loved have turned against me.***

I said this last time, that we should never isolate ourselves from others in our sufferings. I know that is what we may feel like we should do. We don't want to bother anyone. We just don't want to talk to anyone. This may sound a little tough but, we may want to crawl up in a ball and just feel sorry for ourselves. I empathize with that.

Spiritual suffering can come and usually does come alongside the physical suffering and it makes us want to turn inward and isolate ourselves. When we turn inward, that can cause us to feel like no one cares and everyone has abandoned us. In the meantime, people are reaching out to you, praying for you, seeking to help you. Instead, we turn a deaf ear.

I do not feel like that is the case here with Job. Job has been very open with all that is going on with him. Right now, Job couldn't isolate himself if he wanted to with his encouraging friends still around him. Job has been abandoned by everyone. Verse 19 said, "***All my intimate friends abhor me, and those whom I loved have turned against me.***" Wow! Can you imagine the loneliness that he felt?

Well, I told you we would be talking about the hope that is there for all people. Let me ask a question first before we get into that. What are the reasons for our sufferings? James the half-brother of Jesus makes it pretty clear in Chapter 1 of the letter he wrote.

***James 1:2-4***

***<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.***

From those verses I will give us two reasons. One, trials test if you are a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Two, trials strengthen our faith. When we realize in the trial there is only one place to put our hope.

A third reason I would like to share is that it makes us more like Jesus Christ and it brings us to a closer relationship and knowledge of who Jesus truly is. I refer to the Apostle Paul a lot in terms of this as he wrote in Philippians Chapter 3 verse 10, these words when it came to his life surrendered to Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said, "***That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.***"

Short meaning! I Paul am seeking to live a crucified life for the Gospel, total surrender, and obedience to the Father, with great faith!

Job, from a worldly perspective has been ostracized by all that are close to him, made fun of, abandoned by the world. Maybe you have felt that way before and you were brought to the point that you realized there is only one person to place your hope in. Job, in possibly one of his lowest points say this beginning with verse 25.

***Job 19:25-29***

***<sup>25</sup> For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. <sup>26</sup> And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup> whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!***

The reference to Redeemer is in the same sense of what is put in the Levitical Law of the kinsman-redeemer. The kinsman-redeemer was a male relative who would be designated as deliver or rescuer of the person in need.

This next of kin, kinsman, would redeem property, they would redeem those that would sell themselves into slavery, a kinsman redeemer would redeem the widow of his brother to provide materially and to keep the family line intact.

A beautiful example of this was the story of Boaz and Ruth. As Boaz was the kinsman redeemer for Ruth, therefore helping her mother-in law Naomi. Most of you know that story, so I won't go into that. If you are not familiar with it, go and read the book of Ruth and you will see this wonderful story of love, sacrifice and redemption.

That story is made even more beautiful because through that redemption would eventually come the redeemer for all people of whom Job is speaking of. This redeemer, who sees our need of salvation and is willing to and able to redeem us from our sins.

There are several criteria that the kinsman-redeemer must meet.

1. ***As we mentioned, the redeemer must be next of kin.*** Jesus in putting on flesh and becoming a man, became a kinsman. Though still 100% God, he also became 100% man. The God Man! John Chapter 1.
2. ***The redeemer must be able to pay the price.*** In our sinfulness we are spiritual paupers. We cannot pay the debt for our sin. Jesus who knew no sin, became sin for us and is able to pay the price. 2 Cor. 5:21
3. ***The redeemer must be willing to pay the price.*** Mark 10:45 – For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.
4. ***The redemption price must be paid in full*** – Look no further than the cross of Jesus Christ, as Jesus was about to take his last breath on the cross, he cried out what, It is Finished, Tetelestai! Paid In Full!

Though there are two rules of thought about what Job is saying, I look at the words of Job and see there is the knowledge of the resurrection of the body. Bildad has been speaking of nothing, but death.

Here is Job sitting in this ash heap, having lost everything of material value, his children have died, his skin inflamed with boils all over his body, friends that continue to say, it's all your fault Job, you are guilty, you are wicked! Family, friends, acquaintances have totally abandoned him. No one has come to his rescue, no one has come to his aid, But One! And Job says!

Even though all of you have abandoned me, there is one that I put my hope in. My Redeemer Lives! Even if I die, I will see him face to face. There is a day when he will stand upon the earth in full victory and in full glory to rule and reign for all of eternity. If you have repented of your sins and surrendered your life to the Lord Jesus you also can say, my redeemer lives and one day you will see Jesus face to face.

At the end of verse 27, Job, says “My heart faints within me!” What he is saying, is the thought of seeing my Lord, my Redeemer is so great, I can hardly take it in, the thought is just so marvelous. It just melts my soul! Thinking of what he has done for me and that I get to see Jesus face to face! Job is looking beyond his trial here; he is looking beyond the condition he is in and he sees the hope that is in the future.

We have no better example of this than Jesus of when we read these verses from Hebrews Chapter 12:1-2.

### ***Hebrews 12:1-2***

***<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.***

Jesus looked beyond the suffering, and the pain the cross was going to bring to him at that point and time and looked to the glory that it would bring the Father and him, and the redemption that Jesus would bring to all of us.

I hate to leave this wonderful thought of the redeemer Jesus Christ. But job gets one last jab, speaking to Tim's boxing analogy from last week, to his friends. Verses 28 and 29.

***Job 19:28-29***

***28 If you say, 'How we will pursue him!' and, 'The root of the matter is found in him,' 29 be afraid of the sword, for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, that you may know there is a judgment."***

Job is telling his friends to be careful in their judgment. Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar! God will judge you also. With our words we can bring death or life, so we must be careful how, what we say even if we have biblical grounds to warn, chastise, just ask to clarify something. The saying of he who lives by the sword, dies by the sword. That can work with our mouth also.

May I end with a word of encouragement though. Lost person! Look beyond people, look beyond the world, either one has nothing of eternal value for you! Your redemption is near also, if you will repent and surrender your life to the Lord Jesus! For you redeemer lives as well! If you will call out to him to save your soul.

Follower of Jesus Christ! Our trials are for the sole purpose to increase our faith, to strengthen us in a world that is broken and evil. As we look at whatever circumstance you find yourself in tonight, if you are saved, ***Your Redeemer Lives!*** Look beyond the trial and look to the author and finisher of the faith! Your redemption is near!