



Sermon Summary

January 22, 2023

The Pain and Purpose of Loss Job 1:1 – 2:10

The events in the book of Job likely took place during the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob because (1) there's no mention of the Law of Moses or temple (2) Job's wealth is counted in livestock rather than gold or silver. (3) Job is the religious head (priest) for his family (4) Job lived 140 years after the events of the book. Abraham lived 175 years (Gen 25:7). Job lived in Uz. Lamentations 4:21 locates Uz in Edom which was southeast of the Dead Sea.

The Big Question

Job was blessed! He had a large family and great wealth. Job was also righteous! He had complete integrity, feared God, and turned from evil. He was also concerned about his children's relationship with God. He was considered, "the greatest man among all the people of the east." Job's blessing and relationship with God raised a question. Why do people worship God? Satan claimed it was because God had given Job so much. Further, Satan claimed if God took everything away, Job would curse God. Satan's cynicism begs another question. How do people react when God seems unconcerned about their problems?

Job's Loss

God gave Satan permission to have control over all that Job had. So, Job learned in quick succession from reports from his servants he had lost everything. Raiders had stolen his oxen, donkeys and camels and killed his servants. Fire from heaven burned to death his sheep and other servants. A windstorm had collapsed the house his children were in which killed them all. When Job didn't curse God, Satan claimed Job was willing to lose everything as long as he wasn't touched. So, God allowed Satan to take Job's health from him as well. Job suffered with terrible boils from his head to feet. He was in so much pain he sat in ashes and used broken pieces of pottery to scrape himself. Everything was gone except his wife.

Job's Wife's Response

When Job's wife saw his (and her) suffering she became bitter towards God. She probably shared the thoughts of many who suffer. (1) Job didn't deserve it because good people deserve blessing and bad people deserve suffering. (2) God did nothing to relieve Job's suffering, so either he doesn't exist or at least isn't worthy of attention or worship. (3) Because pain has no purpose it should be avoided at all costs even if that means death. Her advice to Job was to curse God and die.

Job's Response

Job's reaction to his first test was to worship God in his grief. He acknowledged that he entered the world with nothing and would leave it with nothing. Whatever he had in between was by the will and grace of God. Therefore, he blessed God! In reaction to his second test, Job acknowledged that God was in control of the good and the bad that happens in our life. If we accept one, we must accept the other. Implied in Job's response was a strong faith that trusted God to allow into his life whatever God decided.