



Get Over Yourself Part 2

It's Above Me Now

Scripture Readings

Job 1:8-12 (NKJV)

8 Then 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, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person."

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)

31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.

Introduction

Coming back into this sermon series after Father's Day is so fitting because we see the linkages between the vulnerable state of the prodigal son and we can identify with feeling lost and estranged from God. We can connect with feelings of regret for our actions, our decisions, our pride. But not everyone is living under consequences of their actions, sometimes we are living under conflict that is above us!

This is a case of "I didn't do nothin!" "This is above me!"

Job and Peter had to eventually recognize that the testing they were going through, the sifting they were experiencing and the assault on their faith was not because of their sin, but it was because of their faithfulness. God is not the only Spirit that bears witness to your faithfulness to God and your desire to love God. Satan also realizes when God has favored you and he will make it a point to come after you to try and prove God wrong about choosing you.

Satan cannot stand to see the Father look at one of His children and smile because He's well pleased with them. That is a smile that Satan will never ever receive—a favor he can never regain, a place in God's heart that is forever lost to him. And so he will try to do everything in his power to make you transgress against God, doubt God, turn from God, defy God, be ashamed of yourself, doubt yourself, hate yourself, convince you to do harm to yourself, punish yourself. It is the very textbook plan of Satan to attack us in these ways.

But you know you are well covered when Jesus Himself has prayed for you.

On Your Worst Day

On your worst day, God's love will never fail you.

One of the observations I made while reading Job's story is that the events in his life seemed to take place over a period of time and the Scriptures are not specific on how many days his suffering journey took. But there is a phrase used throughout Job chapter 1. It says:

"Now there was a day" - when Satan presented himself before the Lord and the Lord brings Job to Satan's attention

"Now there was a day" - when Satan attacks Job's family and possessions (with God's permission)

"Again, there was a day" - when Satan went back to present himself before God that he complained about Job's protection. And God gives Satan permission to attack his health.

Sometimes... you're just having "a day."

Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV)

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He

who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:33-35 (NKJV)

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:37-39 (NKJV)

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In spite of You?

Here we use our ability to surrender to the will of the Father besides and beyond what you feel or can handle, is the realization that God wants to use you in spite of you.

- God wants to use you in spite of you
- He wants to use you, knowing full well what you are incapable of maintaining and what you are well capable of messing up!

2 Corinthians 4:7-11 (NKJV) 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

Isaiah 41:8-10 (NKJV)

8 "But you, Israel, are My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
The descendants of Abraham My friend.

Before Israel was a people, Israel was a man.

God is saying:

- Israel I chose you when you were still Jacob
 - When you were still a trickster
 - When you were still a liar
 - When you were a thief

- When you were a pretender
- When you were lost, wandering in the wilderness
- Hating yourself
- Regretting everything you'd done
- Estranged from your family
- I still chose you
 - I made a promise to Abraham
 - And I watch faithfully over My Word to fulfill it
 - Even to his spiritual descendants who believe Me as he did

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NKJV) 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- The selection of the weakened vessel doesn't negate the power of the Grace Giver—who is God

It's Not Just About You

Out of all the possible choices God could have made, He chose you.

Out of the possible outcomes, God chose this timeline for you to come face to face with His selection of the time, place, circumstances, and you—His candidate for His Grace!

You didn't earn it, He gave it

You can't prove yourself, you can only prove Him

You can't trust yourself, you can only trust Him

You can boast on yourself, you can only boast on Him

It had to be you! But not just you!

- God had to use you in order to reach the next person
- something about you, your unique ability to be you is the right combo, the right sauce, the right introduction to Him
- It had to be you! But not just you!
- God needed to Moses to get to Aaron, and Joshua, and Caleb and all of Israel
- God needed Gideon to set Israel free and awaken Israel to God's Judges among them
- God needed Abraham and Sarah for so much of what we now call faith!
- God needed Zechariah for John to be born and for the way to be paved for Jesus to come
- God needed Elijah's sword so that Elisha's sword would have less enemies to kill and the kings to follow would have less enemies to cut down
- God needed Jonah, so that Ninevah would receive the Word of the Lord
- Jesus; sacrifice was essential for the saving of the world!

It had to be you—but not just you!

He's Over You

This is not to say that God is done with you. It means that you surrender to a greater authority over your life. It means that the final call isn't yours. It means that there's always more than meets the eye and your eyes can't see everything. We are under God's authority. That's what it means to live a surrendered life. We should continue to remain aware and cognizant that God is "over us" and is not limited in Who He Is. Our limitations are not His. Our tolerance levels are not His. Our methods are not His and our solutions or vantage point is not His. He is above us, over us, beyond us, exceeds us, and will never submit to us for anything. It's important to remember the many sides of this, because we can be tempted to think that we speak for Him, need to advise Him, update Him, correct Him, coerce Him, help Him, or get ahead of Him.

- While you are busy assessing your situation—get over yourself
- While you are trying to link the dots together to rationalize what's happening—get over yourself
- While you are having a pity party and getting into the weeds with why you don't deserve XYZ—get over yourself
- While you're getting ready to pat yourself on the back for something you think you did—get over yourself
- While you're ready to pass sentence on someone else and settle on your version of events—get over yourself
- While you feel you've reached your limit and have got it all figured out—get over yourself
- While you've said to yourself, "I'm done..." ask the Lord "Lord are you done with this?" "Not my will, but Your Will be done."

Conclusion

Have you wrestled with the reality that there are some things that are just above you?

Many times we want to combat self doubt with self confidence, self manifestations, self care and self-fulfillment. But the Scriptures lead us to consider the greater will of God being accomplished. He's not only in charge but we're also in His care. God needs someone to know and understand that before you came into the picture, He already planned for you, around you, in spite of you, to prosper you, but not just you. He's inviting us to discover the power of what's "above us."