

2-18-2024, COTR Texarkana.

Title: Trouble with a Capital, “T”, pt-1

Purpose: Provoke people to face trouble with an unshakable faith in God.

Truth for Today: We can face any trouble with faith in God.

Text: John 16:33, The Book of Job

Topic: Trouble, Why, Faith, Doubt

Series Title: Trouble with a Capital, “T”

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I. Introduction

A. Airplane sound, safety in turbulence, Context: Jesus is preparing his followers for trouble, [Jn. 16:33 (NIV)] “I have told you **these things**, so that **in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.** But take heart! I have overcome the world.”] (1) We’re going to face trouble, (2) Don’t spend too much time thinking about your troubles, focus on Me, (3) We can find peace in trouble through Jesus.

B. Mini-Series Title: Trouble with a Capital, “T”. In pt-1, Job will help us hold on to faith in God during trouble when we don’t understand why it’s happening. Trouble tests our faith in God. Trouble can cause a fight on the inside between faith and doubt.

II. Round 1 Video & Bell: God blesses people who follow Him and His ways

A. [Job 1:1–3 (NLT)] There once was a man named Job... **He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil.** ² He had seven sons and three daughters. ³ He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, and 500 female donkeys... He was... **the richest person in that entire area.** Job enjoyed God’s blessings most of his life. Book of Job, a few years.

1. Job was blessed with a loving family, health, and the material blessings of life.

There is a foundational premise taught in the Bible; God is a good, loving God and He blesses those who follow Him. This was exclusively true in the Garden of Eden and will be exclusively true in heaven. However, in this life trouble undermines our happiness because satan and sin are at work.

2. Job wasn’t blessed because he was lucky. It was because *He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil.* He followed God’s ways and God blessed him. This cause and effect is throughout the Bible.

III. Round 2 Bell: Bad things happen to good people

A. [Job 1:6–19 (NLT)] One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, **Satan**, came with them. ⁷ “Where have you come from?” the LORD asked Satan... “I have been patrolling the earth, **watching everything that’s going on.**” ⁸ Then the LORD asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job... He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.” ⁹ Satan replied to the LORD, “Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. ¹⁰ **You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does...**” ¹¹ But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!”

1. i.e., Job worships you because you give him a trouble-free life.

- B. [Vs. 12 “All right, **you may test him**,” the LORD said] Satan, not God, was the cause of Job’s troubles. Trouble happens for many reasons: (1) The devil and his influence are like unseen tree roots effecting everyone and everything since Adam sinned, (a simple but profound theology is God good; devil bad) (2) Choices we make, e.g., Jonah, (3) Choices people close to us make, e.g., sailors on the ship with Jonah, (4) Discipline for sin; spiritual spanking. God is trying to get us back on track. (5) Etc
1. In Job’s case, God didn’t cause the trouble, but He allowed it. We understand that God doesn’t cause bad things to happen, e.g., tornado, murder, church shooting but the hard thing to understand is why God allowed it, why didn’t He stop it? Sometimes this question will never be answered.
- C. Vs. 13 One day...¹⁴ a messenger arrived at Job’s home...¹⁵ the Sabaeans raided us. They **stole all the animals** and killed all the farmhands...¹⁶...another messenger arrived with this news: “**The fire of God** has fallen from heaven and **burned up your sheep** and all the shepherds...¹⁸...another messenger arrived...¹⁹...a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and hit the house on all sides. The house collapsed, and **all your children are dead**.
1. In one day satan brought trouble in Job’s life and took everything good from him. Trouble now defined a man who was living a trouble-free life. The big question in the Book of Job is, would he still believe God is good and worthy of his worship or would he stop following God because of trouble? // us
- IV. Round 3 Bell: How would Job’s relationship with God be affected by trouble?
- A. [Job 1:20–22 (ESV) Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and **fell on the ground and worshiped**.²¹ 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.**”²² In all this **Job did not sin or charge God with wrong**. (NLT) In all of this, **Job did not sin by blaming God**.]
1. Trouble didn’t steal Job’s faith. Job believed God was still good when life was bad. He worshipped God not because of what had happened but in spite of it.
 2. Job didn’t blame God. He faced the 1st round of trouble with strong faith in God.
- V. Round 4 Bell: Job’s feelings and questions grew stronger, and his faith grew weaker.
- A. Context: satan/ boils, [Job 3 (NLT)...¹⁰ **Curse that day...for letting me be born to see all this trouble**.¹¹ “**Why** wasn’t I born dead?...²⁰ “Oh, **why** give light to those in misery, and life to those who are bitter?...**Why** is life given to those with **no future**, those **God has surrounded with difficulties?**] Job didn’t know satan was behind it.
1. Reason and feelings wrestle with our faith when trouble comes. When no answer to why appears, our foundation can wash away unless we strengthen our faith.
 2. *At this point it is vital for our faith in God to confront our reason and emotions.
 3. Faith can get weaker in our struggle with trouble, but weak faith can become strong again.
- B. Faith in God can win the war against reason and emotions. Context: David, searching for God in trouble, [Psalm 42 (NLT) ¹ As the deer longs for streams of water, so **I long for you, O God**.³ Day and night I have only tears for food, while my enemies continually taunt me, saying, “**Where is this God of yours?**”⁴ My heart is breaking

as **I remember how it used to be**: I walked among the crowds of worshipers, leading a great procession to the house of God, singing for joy...⁵ **Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again...** ⁶... Now I am deeply discouraged, **but I will remember you...**⁷ **I hear the tumult** of the raging seas as your waves and surging tides sweep over me. ⁸ **But each day the Lord pours his unfailing love upon me, and through each night I sing his songs, praying to God who gives me life.** LaNell cancer singing at night

VI. Conclusion, Round 5 Bell, "It ain't over till it's over"

A. Trouble is temporary. For the person who holds on to faith in God, better days are ahead. Context, [Job 42:5–16 (NLT)] ⁵ **I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.** ⁶ I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my **repentance.** "...¹⁰...**the Lord restored his fortunes.** In fact, the Lord gave him **twice as much** as before!...¹² So **the Lord blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning.** For now he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 teams of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. ¹³ He also gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters...¹⁶ Job lived 140 years after that, living to see four generations of his children and grandchildren.

1. For **those who believe** in the **God of the Bible**, **trouble is temporary.** **Our faith in God** may get **weak** but it can **become strong again.** [Psalm 46:1 (NKJV)] **God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.]**

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRrIZCKg_2M Video 2:57-3:08; Bell 7:14 loud

VIII. Supplemental Material

A. Psalm 62:5–8 (NLT) Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for **my hope is in him.** ⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. ⁷ My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me. ⁸ O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.

1. Illustrate: Song/ plaque Rock of Ages, the song is about safety from the judgment of sin but it has a similar application to being safe in the storms of life.

B. Job's trouble got worse. [Job 2: 7 So **Satan ...struck Job with terrible boils from head to foot...**⁹ His wife said to him, "**Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.**" ¹⁰ But Job replied, "You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?" **So in all this, Job said nothing wrong.**

1. Isaiah 40:31 (ESv) ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD (NLT trust in the Lord) shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

IX. Ideas

- A. Faith is a way of life, not just a way to solve a problem
It's ok to ask God why... but don't stop there...remember what He has done
Ro 4...walk in faith until God answers and you go to heaven???
- Don't just focus on faith???
- B. Facing adversity / trouble with God. Storms
Acts 27:7, 4 Paul in the will of God. Entire chapter as intro series
Anxiety pt -1,2
Sources of trouble
1. Spiritual warfare
- C. Rock of ages cleft for me As the young minister traveled through the rugged country near England's Cheddar Gorge, the clouds burst and torrential sheets of rain pummeled the earth. The weary traveler was able to find shelter standing under a rocky overhang. There, protected from the buffeting wind and rain, Augustus Toplady conceived one of the most popular hymns ever written, "Rock of Ages, Cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee." In March 1776 Toplady published the hymn as part of an article in *The Gospel Magazine*, which he edited. He wrote that just as England could never pay her national debt, so man could never by his own merits satisfy the justice of God. In the middle of the article, he burst into song, printing for the first time the hymn "Rock of Ages", which so ably describes Christ, the Rock of Ages, as the remedy for all our sin. Augustus Toplady died of consumption at the age of 38. As he neared the end Toplady proclaimed, "My heart beats every day stronger and stronger for glory. Sickness is no affliction, pain no cause, death itself no dissolution...My prayers are now all converted into praise." Used by permission from Christianity.com
- D. **Rock of Ages Bible Meaning**
- E. 1 Samuel 2:2 - "There is none holy like the Lord; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.
- F. 2 Samuel 22:2 - He said, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
- G. Psalm 62:6 - He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- H.
Peace in storms of life...finding God in trouble
Anxiety oh 1:6
- I. Conclusion: Sound bell...Round 5: A lesson from Abraham
- J.
- K. Abraham's trouble was the timing of God's promise/ Abraham practiced / acted in faith to outlast and overcome trouble
- L. Contrast Ge/ Ro 12 lesson feelings, reason are enemies of faith in God.
- M. Abraham show's us how to win the battle against trouble