

Harris Creek Baptist Church
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Series: Unseen Battles
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Surviving Satan's Attacks

Job 1: 6-10

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. ⁷ The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it. ⁸ Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." ⁹ "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

Good morning! Sorry if that was scary, I feel like it. Also, I just feel a need to say that the staff is making fun of me by wearing blazers and hoodies. I'm not starting a cult or anything. They're just punking me. So, there's that. Speaking of cults, last week was the Oscars and I don't know if you watched it, because most people didn't. It was the lowest ratings they've had in years, or some of the lowest they've had in years. But there's a good chance that you watched a part of it. Because there was this scene that you know, went kind of viral the next day that everybody saw.

If you are not up to speed, have no fear. You are here and we will catch you up on all things relevant in culture. And so, Chris Rock is giving an award. He's a comedian, he makes a joke about Will Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, who has a shaved head. Chris Rock makes a joke about that. And long story short, Will takes the stage - walks up to him - and the scene that everybody saw was this open-handed smack. I mean, he hits him. (Picture shows on screen of moment he slapped him.) There's what, you know, has been "memed out". Right? You probably have seen that somewhere.

So then as irony would have it or fate would have it, Will wins the most coveted Academy Award for an actor. Best Actor, for his role in King Richard. So, he takes the stage and he's giving his acceptance speech, which is with an apology. But then he talks about something that Denzel Washington said to him right after that moment. And it's this right here, *In your highest moment, be careful, that's when the devil comes for you. In your highest moment, be careful because that's when the devil comes for you.* This is what Will Smith said, He said, "Hey, this is what Denzel just told me", and believers and people looking to redeem the situation kind of said, "Hey, here you go. There's something to hold on to." *In your highest moment, be careful, because that's when the devil comes for you.*

Steph Curry, I think we have here's some tweet, Steph Curry said "Like everybody. . .I'm still in shock about the whole thing- but in all the unnecessary drama, at least we got the line of the night from Denzel. . . *In your highest moment, be careful, because that's when the devil comes*

for you. The great theologian, Cardi B, also commented on it and then Jimmy Kimmel made a bit about it in his show talking about, *In your highest moment, be careful, because that's when the devil comes for you.*

You're like, "Man, that's good! Put it on a coffee cup, tweet it out. Let me remind... I want to write that on my bathroom mirror. That's a good reminder". Is that true? That's what we should ask when we hear a statement of theology. Is that true? We say all these things about the enemy. But I'm asking the question in the series, 'Hey, what do we know about him? What does he do? How does he work? What does that look like?' Is that when I need to be the most on guard, in my highest moment? And what is Will Smith really saying? Was he saying, "Hey, what just happened? Sorry, guys, I was possessed. The devil made me do it. It wasn't me." I mean, is that the conclusion that I'm to draw from that circumstance? Is that how he works? Is that what he does? And we talked last week. I think we sit under this, "Hey, I don't really know how he works."

I came to run through on Thursday, and so I began to give this message to a panel of critics, and I just had this severe headache. I mean, the worst headache. And I have in my life, seen that as kind of an attack from the enemy. And so, I'm like, this is spiritual warfare. That's what's going on here. And then I'm teaching at FM 72 on Tuesday night, really powerful movement of God happening on campus at Baylor, and as I'm teaching the top of my music stand just comes off. And so, I say, "You know, there goes Satan, right?" And then everyone kind of laughs, but is that what happened? Is there some demon right there that we can't see with some sort of supernatural screwdriver undoing that?

People will be like, "Well I was late sorry my battery was dead, spiritual warfare." Was there a demon under your hood draining your battery? Did he turn your lights on? And if he did turn your lights on, would you be able to see him do it or is it like Toy Story? What is happening there? What do we know? Like, can we actually know? Another thing at FM 72, it was raining up until the event. We were like, "Look at Satan, you know, he doesn't want this to happen." That's the things we'll say. "Satan doesn't want this to happen, he's making it rain." Can he make it rain? Like can he do that? Is that in his realm of authority? These are questions that are reasonable questions that the Scripture speaks to.

And so, that's what we're talking about. We're in this series, Unseen Battle. It is a series on spiritual warfare. And today we're talking about how the enemy attacks. Now when I'm talking about Satan, I'm really talking about demonic forces. And so, we said last week, "Hey, Satan is not omnipresent, he's not everywhere". So, when you say, "Satan's attacking me", he's probably never been anywhere near you. But it's not wrong to say, "Satan's attacking me" because it would be like if you're in Ukraine, and you would say, "Vladimir Putin just bombed my city." Or "Vladimir Putin is shooting up people here." You say, "Well, hold on, timeout, he's in a bunker in Russia, like he's nowhere near you." But it's not wrong to say, "He is the authority behind what's happening."

So, when you say, "Satan is attacking me," that can be theologically sound as long as you understand that he's the force that's behind the attack, not necessarily the one that's doing the

attacking in your life. And so, as I say, “Satan” I just want that categorical understanding. We're talking about he and his army of demons here on Earth, which is what we talked about last week. Who is he? Where is he, and what he's up to? And we said, he's up to lies, that's what he does. He lies. This week, we're going to talk about how he's up to it. What it is that he can actually do. How the enemy attacks. That's the subject today, how the enemy attacks.

Interesting aside... Well, I will add this here, because I have it written. They came up right before I came out and said, “Hey, our screens have just gone crazy.” And I'm like, “Not surprised, you know, ‘spiritual warfare’”. I think, I don't know. Or a virus, right? I don't know. I don't know what's going on. You just have to understand there's a limit to how much we can know. We can know the kinds of things he can do. But at the end of the day, I don't know that we're going to come to - with any level of certainty - this was and that was...and here's exactly what happened. Right? Just to see how far our knowledge can take us.

And so, I got more feedback on last week's message than any message I've ever taught here, at Harris Creek. Positive feedback. But that's curious to me. I wouldn't put that in top 100 messages or anything. When I moved here, I said this statement. I said, “You know, there are some unique spiritual strongholds in Waco” and that comment I remember just getting more emails and more questions, “Hey, what did you mean by that?” around that comment. There is an intrigue in us around this topic of what happens in the spiritual realm. And I think it's that intrigue and how rarely we talk about it in a biblical, accurate sense that causes some people to lean in. So, I really want to do the best that I can, the best that the Scriptures will allow me to or the best that my own intellect will allow me to, to remove any confusion that is happening around this topic.

I'm going to be in Job chapter 1. If Ezekiel is not your favorite book, it's got to be Job, right? Got to love Job. In chapter 1, I'm going to start in verse 6. The 1 through 5, really just talks about how blessed Job is, as a man. We're going to look at what can Satan do? Why would God let him do it? And what do we do in response to those things?

Something strange is about to happen. There's a spiritual realm, and rarely can we see that spiritual realm. It's almost like in movies, where there's like a warp zone, you know, like some sort of thing opens up like a window into another “realm”, or another “dimension”, or another “world”. And you could kind of look in that and people can pass through. You've seen this in Dr. Strange or just different Marvel movies or different movies in general. This is a theme that is repeated. And so, what's going to happen today is we rarely get a glimpse into the spiritual realm. You're going to, today, walk up to the window, wipe it off, and look in. And you're going to see into the spiritual realm as God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth has a conversation with the Prince of Darkness, Satan. They're going to converse and we're going to get to observe that in the text here, in verse 6.

I will tell you that there's some strange things happening in the Hebrew here. So, the way that it reads we don't get the tense, we don't get where the emphasis is. There's a lot that we can't understand at face value, that in studying the text we have a better understanding of what this conversation looks like. This story is one of the oldest in the Scripture. It was passed on through oral tradition, which means we probably, in the Bible, in the Scriptures that we have, don't have

all of the context of the original story. This was more like a play, like almost a Shakespearean act, if you will. But here's what I would tell you, the Holy Spirit has preserved everything we need. And so, what we have in the text is what we need to understand about the character of God and what He wants from us. **One day, the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it. Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."**

So right out the gate, you always want to camp out on interpreted challenges. To ask, "Hey, what's happening there?" Job 1 is just one giant interpretive challenge. Okay? It's really deep diving on everyone. It feels like God said, "Hey, Satan, what's up?" Satan's like, "Not much just hanging out on Earth." And God's like, "You should mess with Job. He's a good guy. Do something about that." That's what it feels like, in the reading.

So, what actually is happening is God summons Satan. So, he shows up with angels. He has some sort of access to God upon God's request. He's there, and it's not the "Where have you been?" It's more, "What are you doing?" And Satan's response is not like, "Hey, I have just been roaming throughout the earth". It's, "I'm causing trouble, it's what I do. I am stirring up trouble." There's a stirring up there in the Hebrew. "I'm just stirring things up - mixing it up. Look, there's nothing left, look I've destroyed it all." And then God's like, "You haven't destroyed Job. In fact, you could learn a thing or two from him. Because he faithfully follows me." And then Satan says this, **"Does Job fear God for nothing? . . . Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land, but now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."**

God says, "Hey, as you're stirring up trouble don't you see this one still follows me? He's preserved". And Satan goes, he's the accuser, "He doesn't follow you! He follows your stuff. He doesn't love you! He loves all the things you've blessed him with. You remove those blessings and he's going to turn on you like that!" because that's what the accuser does. He accuses. "He loves his ten kids, and thousands of heads of livestock, and his success, and his servants". **The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."** God says, "I'll show you that I have his heart. I'll show you, and the angels who have been with me, they're going to see who is good. They're going to see where Job's heart is."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept

down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

This is a really bad day. In one moment, he's lost everything. With four bearers of bad news, he's lost oxen, and donkeys, and sheep, and camels. His servants are dead. And as if that's not bad enough, his 10 children have died. **At this, Job got up...**, so all the angels lean in. Here he is at the center of the stadium. Everyone says, "How's he going to respond?" "This is where he curses God." "No, don't do it Job". **At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."** In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Could you imagine? Job's a member of this church, he showed up this morning. What his week has looked like is Chapter 11 – bank or somebody has come and taken everything. There was a fire, and all of his ranch was destroyed; all of the animals destroyed. There's no insurance policy and to make matters worse, in the midst of the fire, all his children were hanging out playing Monopoly around the table when the house burned down with them in it. And it's Sunday and he says, "I will go, and I will worship. Blessed be the name of the Lord". It's other worldly. Its other worldly what's happening.

So, what can Satan do? We said last week, he lies. What is a New Testament verse that tells us how the enemy operates? Can you think of one? Just one that just kind of lists out. (Listening for crowd input.) The thief. Amongst the murmuring I think I heard, "steals, kills, and destroys."

John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. So, we shouldn't be surprised. That matches up, that New Testament verse, certainly matches up with his *modus operandi* here. He steals, and kills, and destroys. And yet he has stolen, killed, and destroyed that seems true. And so, my first point is:

1. *Satan can only do what God allows.*

This text goes out of its way to show you that that is absolutely true. He can only do what God allows. The devil is God's devil. And this whole passage starts out by Satan complaining to God that God won't let him do anything to Job. "Like of course he worships you, you won't let me touch him! I can't touch him. If I could destroy his things, he would turn on you, but you won't let me! **You put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has...**" Verse 12, God sets His boundaries **"on the man you must not lay a finger."** What's going to happen in chapter 2, verse 6, is then he's going to come back around and complain again. "You but you, yeah, yeah. But, but he. . ." God's like, "He didn't turn on me, see? He's faithful, blameless, upright." He says, "Yeah, because he still has his health though. You wouldn't let me touch him." God says, "Very well. You can touch him, but don't kill him." And God just continues to call the shots here. It's here in Job 2:6, **"The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your**

hands; but you must spare his life.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crowns of his head. These are bleeding, pus filled sores, he's miserable. He's cutting himself. Then Job takes a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!”

So, he can only do what God allows. But what does God allow? It's a little bit unsettling. You know, as we read that, we're like, “Whoa God, like pull the brakes! Is he going to do that to me? What if he does that to me?” That's how I read this. I'm like, “What about...? Does He still operate that way?” So, what we see, let's just list it out, what we see in the text: Satan controls armies - the Sabeans who take the donkeys, and the oxen, and kill the servants; the Chaldeans who take the camels and kill the servants; he controls armies of people. He sends something like fire from heaven in verse 16. He controls the wind in verse 19. He causes disease, in Job 2:7. He makes you not feel well, gives you a headache in run through, he can do that. And people will do anything to feel well.

I mean, the most desperate human beings I've ever seen, are people who just want to feel well. They will turn to all kinds of things to feel well. I am the biggest baby when I don't feel well. I mean, I get the stomach bug and I just pray to die. I'm like, “Lord, I'm ready, take me. Take me! I cannot endure this suffering any longer.” And that's me, I'm weak - I'm telling you. And so, it does seem as though he can control the wind.

I remember in 2010, when an earthquake hit Haiti. If you don't know much about Haiti's history, a previous president had dedicated the nation to Satan. And you would think, “Why would he ever do that?” And the Haitians famously said, “We believe in God, we just think he's slow. And Voodoo is fast. Satan operates quicker than the Lord.” Satan will give you temporary pleasures here. And so, they would turn to him. And so, there's these voodoo temples everywhere when you go there. There are churches and there's these little voodoo temples and witch doctors that you can turn to and bargain with to try to find healing.

And so, in 2010, when the earthquake hit, there was a great revival in Haiti. The churches were filled. People were turning back to God because they said, many that I talked with said, “We believe that Satan has power, but he's not strong enough to shake the earth.” So, Christians heard that and say, “Man, that's awesome!” But I think if you had right theology you might say, “Well, hold on, he actually is.” He actually can do just about anything God lets him do. He can shake the earth, he can send wind, tornadoes, hurricanes, fire. There's a lot that he can do.

He has a lot of authority here, he can steal, kill, and destroy. Let me just show you because I always say this but let me show you. John 14:30 calls him, **“the prince of this world”**. In Ephesians 2:2 calls him, **“the ruler of the kingdom of the air”**. And then 2 Corinthians 4:4 calls him, **“the god of this age”**. The truth is he has a lot of authority here because we sit in this great experiment that we talked about last week.

And so, as Peter writes, 1 Peter 5 says, **“Be alert and of sober mind”** he's talking to you - be alert. Harris Creek, **be alert and sober mind the enemy, your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him standing.** . . what how

do we stand? **Standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing some kind of suffering.** So, this verse is actually talking about suffering. It's the temptation that coincides when things aren't going well.

And so, your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion. He's like a stray kitten. If you feed a stray kitten, you now have a cat. He has now found a home. Right? You feed him; you entertain the things of him. "Hm, that's interesting, let me look at that again. Click on that hashtag, let me go there. Let me drink one more. Let me vape, let me smoke, let me spend, let me buy, let me escape, indulge." "Oh, I have a home. You've made a home for me." But if you starve that stray cat, if you say "Uh-uh, no food here. I'm standing firm in the faith. I'm resisting you." He says, "Well I got to eat, so I'm going somewhere else. I don't have a home here." This is our role.

But this is not just talking about temptation, like look at that, go there, smoke that, drink that. This is talking about suffering. Moving to a place in the midst of questioning God, because of what is happening to you, under the sun. Right? "Deconstructing" is the big word right now and it almost always, prior to deconstruction is some missed expectation. God did not meet my expectation. Almost always. Stand firm. Why would God allow suffering? It is unsettling. My second point,

2. *Satan allows us to trust God. (God allows Satan to give us opportunities to trust God.)*

I don't like the way I worded that. So, I'm going to give it to you a different way. God allows Satan to give us opportunities to trust God. It's a little less pithy. God allows Satan to give us opportunities to trust Him. If all we had... Guys, just think about this for a second. If all we had was rainbows and butterflies, you would not need faith. The biggest thing that God wants from you is faith. This is what He wants, He wants your faith. He wants you to trust Him. And if all you had was blessings, you would never need to trust Him. But what, make no mistake about it, what God desires from you this morning, and tomorrow, and the next day, until you're face to face with Jesus, is your faith. Faith can be defined as you trusting Him.

Now remember the narrative that happened, from last week, God made Satan. He clothed him like the high priest in Exodus. He put these beautiful stones on him, and He gave him powers that other angels didn't have. He made him "perfect", is the word the Scripture uses. And Satan says, "I don't want to worship you, God, look at me, I want to be God." And God could have smote him in the moment. God could have destroyed him in the moment. But then we wouldn't know if God is good. If no one ever comes against Him, if no one ever challenges Him, if all He does is destroy His enemies in a moment, God says, "Wait, you want to be like me? Go down there and do it. Let's see how you can do." God sends Satan to the earth. Satan is here, not in hell, he's on the earth - recap from last week. He's trying to be God here. And we're in the middle of this experiment or battle or test, whatever word most appropriately fits in your heart, we are in this test. Who are we going to worship? The god of this age, the prince of this air, or the God the Creator of the heavens and the Earth? You have to remember that. It is important, that's the background of why would God allow?

The second thing you need to know is the world is not as God initially intended. His first will would be that we would be in right relationship with Him. In the garden He says, "Don't eat from the tree." It is like, "God, I'm not even going to look at the tree. You told me don't eat from it. I'm going to build a fence around it, put it in a vault, stay as far away from it as I can. Because you are good and all I want is you." But that's not what we do. God says, "Don't do that." And we say, "But I think I can. I'm going to give it a shot if you're okay with it. (JP plugs his ears) Lalalala lalalala." Right? This this is what we do. And when we did it, everything fell apart.

So, the world that we have now has cancer and heartbreak and pain and divorce and death and disease. Destruction. This is what we're left with. This is also the answer to "the why". And so now there are tornadoes and disease and so, you can ask the question, "Well, when the tornado comes and houses are destroyed, is Satan behind that?" And the answer is anywhere on Earth there's destruction, Satan is behind it. Because the world is fallen. In God's original plan, His first and best desire would not be that people die in tornadoes, or hurricanes, or tsunamis, or earthquakes, or fires. But here we are in the second best, and we don't know exactly how he's behind it. It's like if there's an arson who sets a house on fire, starts a fire in a house because he doesn't like the people that live there. So, he burns down the house and ends up burning down the neighborhood, and the whole neighborhood burns down. What destruction is he responsible for? All of it. And so, in all of the destruction of the enemy, there's a wake of destruction that we feel. We don't know if that was direct or indirect, peripheral consequence, or a direct attack. We can't sort that out. But any pain, any suffering, and any destruction that we experience under the sun; he is behind. And we have to reconcile that God could stop it. He can. And so why wouldn't He?

When Presley, it's really true of all my children, but she's the oldest so I'll pick on her. When she was just beyond the toddler age, she was going to swimming lessons. And I remember her walking out, with shaky knees on the diving board, and me treading water in the deep end with my hands out saying, "Jump! Jump! You can do it! Jump! Come on baby girl! You can do it! Jump!" Now what she sees as a three- or four-year-old, is my daddy just wants me to drown. He's going to let me drown. I'm like, "No! I'm not going to let you drown! Jump! You can do it! You can do it!" But you begin to trust your senses, and what you see, and it's like that's deep water and I don't know how to do this thing you call swim yet. It just seems like you're asking me to drown.

And she grows up, man, because this is what happens. Sooner or later, she's going to hit 17, 18, you know 36, and begin to notice boys. And one of those, one of those boys may be no good for her. Right? And I see that, and I'm like, "He's no good for you. He's not into the right things. He's not walking with God; you want to stay away from . . ." But he has her heart. For whatever reason, sometimes this is how this goes. He has her heart. And there I am saying, "No baby girl, listen. You don't want to go that way. That's going to hurt you." And she looks at her daddy as an 18-year-old and says, "You just want me to drown." "No! I don't." "It seems like you're asking me to drown." "No, I'm not asking you to drown, I'm asking you to trust me. I'm asking you to trust me."

And so, you're in the thick of it. A baby has died in a womb or in the street. Someone who promised amazing things to you, has now broken them. Or someone you love is hit with a disease or suffering. Or someone that you love doesn't wake up. And you're sitting in that grief and in that pain and you're looking to God and you're like, "You're asking me to drown." "No, no, no, no. I'm asking you to trust me. I can bring good from anything; in ways that no one else can." You will never get in a bind, guys, you will never get in a bind, believing that God can make good from anything. You will often get in a bind when you start telling Him the good He needs to bring. When you start telling Him, "No, this is the good I want!" He says, "But that's not you trusting me, you're still god in that situation. You're still wanting to be god, I want you to trust me. I want your trust." "But it seems like you're asking me to drown." "I'm not, I'm asking you to trust".

Verse 20, **At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.** And so, what is our right response in an attack?

3. *What is our right response in an attack?*

That is my third point. It's really a question because I'm going to give you four things, from the text. Our right response in the text,

- **Fall Into Worship** - Verse 20 says, "**he fell to the ground in worship.**" Fall into worship. In the midst of an attack, you move to worship. It says, "he fell into worship", we fall into worship. There is something about prostrating ourselves before the Lord. There is something about lifting our hands. There is something about falling on our faces or on our back. We see it over and over and over and over again in the Scripture. You do your own word search on this. And I think there is a temptation to think, "Gosh, these people are raising their hands, are they always feeling it?" There's a young woman here, who would often in worship go to her knees. She would worship on her knees. And somebody talked to her afterwards and said, "Wow, you know, I see you week after week going to your knees in worship. Are you always moved with that much emotion? Are you always feeling it that much?" And she just responded, "No, I rarely feel anything. I just believe that God deserves to be worshipped like that. I just believe that's the worship that He deserves." And so, when we think, "Well, they're faking it!" Right? It's like you're misunderstanding what it is, it's an act of obedience, not of emotion. "This is how God deserves to be worshipped. I don't raise my hands because I'm feeling something. We hit just the right note, and sang the right cords, so up goes the hands, like Pavlov's dogs. No, I just see in the Scripture that He's asked us of that at times so, we walk in obedience."
- **Identify Good** - He says, "**The Lord gives, he's given me good things**". James 1:17 says, "**Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Heavenly Lights.**"

In despair, I've seen it time and time again, guys, when someone is despairing, gratitude is the first to go. It's like all of a sudden, they hate their situation and they're not thankful for anything. And I'm just telling you, there is always something around you to be thankful for. Find it! Identify it! Begin to list it out. Identify the good.

- **Resist Sin** - It says in verse 22, **"In all this Job did not sin."** Resist the devil. Stand firm in the faith. 1 John 3:8 says, **"The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."** Resist sin. Do not turn to sin. Do not cope.
- **Maintain Hope** – Maintain hope because you're not home yet. You always have hope. He says, "I know that my redeemer lives." This is Job chapter 19, listen to what he says, it's pretty phenomenal, profound in fact. **"I know that my redeemer lives"** now I don't know if he's prophetically speaking about Jesus. I think he's actually talking about a phenomenon then, the kinsman redeemer. But listen to what he says, **"and that in the end he will stand on the Earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes- I, and not another, how my heart yearns within me!"** I'm not home yet. Whatever you're going to do to me Satan, you can't do it long. You got maybe 70, 80, 90 years, that's all you got. That's the only kind of suffering you can bring upon me. And then forever, and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever, I am free.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing how? Firm. Can I just show you Mark 13:13? It says, **"Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands"** . . . how? (Crowd – Firm). 1 Corinthians 15:58, **"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand"** . . . how? (Crowd – Firm). 1 Corinthians 16:13 **"Be on guard, stand."** . . . how? (Crowd – Firm). 2 Corinthians 1:24 **"Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand"** . . . how? (Crowd – Firm). Galatians 5:1 **"Stand"** . . . how? (Crowd – Firm). Philippians 1:27 **"Whatever happens, conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm."** You're not alone. Stand firm. Fall into worship. Identify good. Resist sin. And maintain hope. Fall into worship. Identify good. Resist sin. And maintain hope. It's F-I-R-M. It's how we stand. Stand firm.

When Monica and I were early in our marriage, our vacations were timeshare pitches. Okay? These guys will call you and say, "Hey we will give you like 17 days in Hawaii for \$27 if you'll just sit in a 90 minute, you know, presentation." That 90-minute presentation is always, you know, 120 minutes or whatever. But we go, and you got to be careful because this will ruin your vacation. You know? Because these guys are relentless, man. It's like "No" and they're like "Hold on, let me get my boss." "No." "Let me get my boss' boss." "No." "Hey, just for a minute

we are going to handcuff you to the desk. This is all a part of the presentation though, you know, you want your air pods. Okay? So, hang in there.”

We had to get really good at saying no. And so, I came up with this, and you can steal this alright, if you didn’t learn anything else today, take this with you. I just finally said, “Hey man, listen, if you take those number of weeks and you multiply them by 10, you give us 10 times what you’re offering. And then you take that price, and you divide it by 10, so it’s 90% off. I still am not in any way even slightly, remotely interested in what you’re offering. The answer is no.” And at that he has nothing else to do, right, and nowhere else to go. He’s like, he’s just kind of like looked at me and like, “Hold on wait, so you’re saying that if I give you this for this you still wouldn’t buy” I was like, “Not even close, wouldn’t even think about it.” “Oh okay, here’s your air pods.” You know?

This is how you handle the enemy. “Satan, listen, you can take everything I have. But you’re not going to take my faith. Nothing that you do to me in this world is going to cause me to question the goodness of God because I have an inheritance with him; an eternity. So, I’m going to stand firm. Alright? I’m not going to fall for that. I’m not going to fall for that.” And you’ve just taken away all his power. What can he do then? Because he has. . . what can Satan do to you? He can only discourage you. If you’re a believer, he can’t take your faith. All he can is discourage you. So, what’s he trying to do? He’s trying to discourage you. He’s trying to remove courage from you. He’s trying to remove faith, belief from you. He will inflict you with an illness. He will take things you love. All these things. But he can’t take away the one that you’re going to have forever and ever and ever and ever. So, in summary, Satan can only do what God allows. God allows Satan to give us opportunities to trust God. And our response in an attack is to fall into worship, identify good, resist sin, and maintain hope.

It says in Job 42:12 that “**The Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part**”. That he received twice as much as he had before. That he had 10 more children, that his daughters were known throughout the land as the most beautiful women on Earth. And it just goes on and on about the ways that the Lord blessed him. And here’s my hunch. When you get into Heaven, right, and you find Job. He’s not going to be in a cage somewhere locked up, because that would be confusing. He’s probably going to have the biggest house on the hill. You are like, “Who lives there?” “Oh, that’s Job.” “Oh yeah, I read about him, 42 grueling chapters.” You talk to Job and you’re like, “Man, how did you endure that?” Could you imagine this conversation? “How’d you endure that?” He’s like, “Endure what?” “Man, when you lost all that stuff. You don’t remember? When you lost all the thousands of heads of cattle and your children died and I just I can’t, you were covered in boils . . .” “Oh gosh, I forgot about that. I hadn’t thought about that in several thousand years actually. How’d you know that? Oh, it’s in a book? Oh okay, gotcha. Man, that’s interesting. Nah, like, man the Lord made good on that. I mean I’d go through that a thousand more times. I don’t know if you’ve noticed what He’s blessed me with up here forever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever, but I’m good. I’m good, He gives and takes away.”

You need to know that just like Job, his second part of his life is better than the first, your next life is going to be infinitely better than the first. In this life you will have trouble but take heart He’s overcome the world. Let me pray that you would, stand firm.

Father, help us stand firm. The enemy, our enemy, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Help us to resist him, standing firm. Help us not to give in to that. Help us to know that we're not home. I know that this message is going to stir up memories of loss and heartache and pain and in the midst of that, I don't want to be the guy on the stage with my cape blowing in the wind, like I don't ever question your goodness because You know as well as anyone that that is not true. But Lord, in that questioning, that momentary question mark, would you meet us in that? Would you turn our heart and attention to the hope that we have? Would you help us to fall into worship, to identify what is good around us, to resist sin and the temptation of the enemy, and always maintain hope? Help us to stand firm. In the name of Jesus, Amen.