

SCRIPTURE: Book of Job TITLE: "Re-tell: Job"

Intro: Had lunch with someone this week. Used to be a self-described "good Christian guy." Worked hard. Loved family. Husband/dad. Church every week. Span of 2 weeks. Lost a lot. "Why God? I've served you. I've done my best to be faithful." **Karma Theology. Retribution.** "What comes around goes around." "Do for God and He'll for you." "Give to the Lord and Bless." God doesn't owe us anything. What have we given to God that He should repay us? Nothing. **Book of Job.** E'yo[b]. Genesis 11-12. Not an Israelite. Knows God generically. Trusts. Theodicy. "How can God be all-knowing, all-powerful, all-good and all-sovereign and suffering still happens?" **John Calvin** preached 159 sermons on Job in about 6mos. Every weekday lunch. **Joseph Caryl.** London pastor. Preached Job 23 years. Congregation dwindled. 12 vols. Imagine 20yrs later. "He's preaching Job again." "Nope. He's still preaching Job." :-)

Thesis: "We can face suffering when we know that God is Sovereign and Merciful"

I. Job's Suffering

- A. **1:1; 1:6-12.** The Satan(Accuser) takes all stuff. Wealth. And kids. Then his health. **2:1-8**
- B. **Satan/Devil** can do nothing without God's permission. God brought it up. *He knew end.*
- C. **Job's initial response.** *Honest Prayer.* **3:1-13.** God later say he was right in all he said.
- D. **1:20-21; 2:9-10; 13:15** - Job continues in faith & reveres God. Doesn't sin/curse God.

APPLICATION: 1) **JESUS in Garden.** "Not my will, but your will." Worship in suffering. JESUS. Trusting God's will in every circumstance. Jesus is the suffering servant really didn't deserve it. 2) **When we suffer, we become more like Jesus.** Opportunity. Find joy/satisfaction only in Him. It is a blessing. *Suffering = Blessing?* **Rom. 5:3-5, Rom. 12:12. His Sovereign Hand.**

II. Job's Friends

- A. **2:11-13.** *First 7 days.* Quiet. Sat w/ Job in distress. GOOD JOB! After that... womp.
- B. **Back and forth conversation.** Feels long, but imagine these guys around a fire. If someone took a transcript of a group of guys around a fire, it'd be longer. 3-37. **(3x)**
- C. *In these convos, an important theme: "Mediator/Redeemer."* **16:19-21; 19:25-27.**
- D. *Their advice: More Karma Theology. What'd you do Job? Why? "NOTHING!"*
- E. *Elihu: 32:1-8; 33:4-28; Mediator. Deliverer. Redeemer. Light.* **John 8:12.**

APPLICATION: Jesus: perfectly righteous Mediator. **1 Tim.2:5.** Justified in Him. **Rom.5:1.**

III. Job's God. Sovereign and Merciful.

- A. **Sovereign. 38:1-11.** Creator & Controller of everything. His Own Glory. Job recognizes God's greatness and responds only appropriate way. **42:1-6.** Humble repentance.
- B. **Merciful to the friends. 42:7-9.** *Job intercedes/prays for them.* Like Jesus does for us.
- C. **Merciful to Job. 42:10-12a.** Not reward. It's mercy & grace. Not repayment. Descriptive not prescriptive. Grace upon grace. Will receive heavenly reward. **1 Peter 5:6-11.**

APPLICATION:

- 1) **Jesus's death on the cross shows us God's Sovereignty & Mercy. Acts 2.**
- 2) **We can face suffering** when we know that God is Sovereign and Merciful. **James 5:11.**
- 2) **Jesus intercedes for friends. John 17.** "Peter, devil asked to sift you. But I prayed for you."

CONCLUSION: *So why does God allow suffering?* We don't always know the specifics. How it will grow us and how God will get the glory from it, but we do know that's what He promises. Our good. **Rom.8:28.** His glory. **Rom. 11:33-36.** (*quoting Elihu/God*). *For you to say that no good can come from your suffering/hardships, or God can't allow it, because you can't see it, explain it or discover it assumes that you are more knowing, seeing and wise than God. God can't intend this for good, because I can't see any good coming from it. But then He wouldn't be God would He? You've become your own God. You trust your own mind. Not His. TREE CUT.*

We can face suffering when we know that God is Sovereign/Merciful. Trust His will. B/c Jesus.

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Romans 5:3-5 - Not only that, but ***we rejoice in our sufferings*** [WHAT?!], knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 12:12 - Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. [JOB!].

1 Peter 5:6-11- Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

James 5:11- Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Romans 11:33-36 - Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

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