

RESILIENT IN OUR REDEEMER

Lesson 1 – Resilient in Material Loss and Poverty

OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Describe a time in your own life or in the life of someone you know when money was tight or an unexpected loss was experienced. What lessons were learned?

Brainstorm/List any examples of loss or poverty in Scripture.

MONEY PROBLEMS...

Problem #1:

Ecclesiastes 10:19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything.

Proverbs 19:4 Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man's friend deserts him.

Problem #2:

Ecclesiastes 8:4 There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: righteous men who get what the wicked deserve, and wicked men who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.

Psalms 73:2-5, 12 But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. ³ For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ⁴ They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. ⁵ They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not

plagued by human ills. ...¹² This is what the wicked are like—always carefree, they increase in wealth.

1.) Our God controls all things, yet in the mystery of his will he also allows the devil to negatively influence the affairs of this world while ultimately limiting his power and using his nefarious dealings for his eternally good purpose (cf. Job, Jesus, Paul, etc.). Why might God and the devil (for their own respective purposes) allow the wicked to generally enjoy greater material prosperity than the godly?

Matthew 5:45 “[Your Father in heaven] causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

Luke 16 19-21, 25 “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ... Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.’”

Philippians 3:18-19 Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

Problem #3:

Ecclesiastes 5:13-15 I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, ¹⁴ or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him. ¹⁵ Naked a man comes from his mother’s womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand.

Job’s First Test (Chapter 1)

The Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:12ff)

Problem #4:

Isaiah 13:17 “See, I will stir up against them the Medes, who do not care for silver and have no delight in gold.”

Zechariah 1:14a, 18 “The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly... ¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD’s wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth.”

RESILIENCE IN OUR REDEEMER - Trust in the Promises of God!

Promise #1:

Job 1:9-10 Satan complains... 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?”

Psalms 91:9-12 If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—¹⁰ then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; ¹² they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Promise #2:

Matthew 6:25,26 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Philippians 4:19 my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 37:25 I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

Promise #3:

Romans 8:28,35,37 We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose... ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ...³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Genesis 50:20 “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.”

Evidence of God’s Faithfulness

- 1.) Give some examples from Scripture where God naturally (and when needed miraculously) provided the needs of his people.

2.) Share some examples of God's unexpected supply from your own life or others.

RESILIENCE LEARNED AND LIVED

1.) What then should be our attitude towards material wealth and our reaction when it is taken away?

Proverbs 30:7-9 Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: ⁸ Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. ⁹ Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

Matthew 6:12 "Give us today our daily bread."

Ecclesiastes 7:14 When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future.

Job 1:21 "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

Philippians 4:12-13 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

2.) How can we practically live out this resilience in our Redeemer today?

Matthew 25:35-36, 40 "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ⁴⁰ ...'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

Leviticus 19:10 "Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God."

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.