

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Job's Three Friends

Job 1:1 – 42:17 (selected verses)

Major Segments:

- Satan challenges the Lord to take away Job's possessions
- Satan takes all of Job's possessions and causes him great physical and mental pain
- Job stands strong in his trust with the Lord but encounters great confusion about life & God
- Job's friends seek him out to provide insight but place blame on Job and speak untrue of the Lord

Segment Questions:

- Why do you think God was willing to grant permission to Satan to take away Job's valuable possessions?
- Does suffering sometimes have beneficial results on a person's life? What benefits did Job gain/learn through his suffering?
- Why was it that Job's 3 friend's believed Job must have been a sinner to suffer such tragedy in his life?
- God later spoke and rebuked Job for some of his earlier interpretations of why these bad things were happening; he also sternly rebuked the 3 friends for not speaking what is right about God; what lessons did Job and the 3 friends all learn through this encounter?
- In the end, why do you think God blessed Job more in his latter life than before all of the tragedy set in?
- Is it clear as to what Satan learned from God and his followers? Is Satan still pursuing this goal of proving God wrong or is he strictly tempting us to sin?

Action Questions:

- What are some of the ways we can stand strong in our faith and trust God when we encounter severely difficult times?
- Do you have friends that speak untrue about life and God? How do you stand strong in what's right and what's wrong?
- What help can we provide to those suffering through tragedy that need the light of God?

Job 1:1 – 42:17

From: www.btstories.com

Job was a great man of high integrity who feared God and stayed away from evil. He had seven sons and three daughters. He was a rich man with many servants. His livestock included a large number of sheep, camels, oxen, and donkeys.

The Lord said to Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? There is no one else on earth like him. He has high integrity and stays away from evil."

Satan said, "Well, of course he does. He's found that being righteous is a good deal. You protect him and everything he owns. You bless him and give him whatever he wants. But try taking away all his possessions. Then watch what happens. He'll curse you to your face."

The Lord said, "We'll see. I give you permission to take everything he owns, but you can't touch him personally."

Soon afterwards, a number of servant ran up to Job and told him that all of his oxen and donkeys were taken by thugs; lightning struck and killed all your sheep; an army came and took all your camels; your servants have been killed; and finally. Your sons and daughters were eating together, when suddenly a tornado hit the house and they all died.

Job fell down with grief. He tore his clothes and shaved his head. He then bowed his head and said, "I came into this world naked. I'll leave this life naked. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Praise the name of the Lord!" In spite of all that happened, Job didn't sin or blame God.

Soon afterwards, Job was covered with boils, from head to toe. He sat down in ashes and took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself. His wife said, "How can you go through all this and still keep your integrity? Curse God and die!"

He said, "You're talking foolishness! I'm willing to accept whatever God gives me, good or bad." And so, with all of this, Job didn't sin or blame God.

Three friends of Job heard about what had happened, and went to visit him. All three sat down next to Job and didn't say anything for seven days.

Finally Job cried out, "I wish I'd never been born!"

His friends then tried to help him understand what was happening to him. One friend explained that righteous people don't suffer like this, only sinners do. His second friend was a bit more bold and told said Job was a hypocrite and needed to confess his sin for God to be merciful. His third friend was the most bold of all. He said, "Job, you're a liar! You're a sinful man and deserve God's judgment." Job replied with passion that he was innocent.

A young man came along with a different perspective. He wanted to encourage Job. He said "God meant this suffering to be educational. Yes, the Lord is trying to correct your sin, but he's also restoring you to righteousness.