JOB



WHERE WE ARE

- God described Job as blameless and upright, yet Job lost his wealth, children, health, and security.
- Job's three friends repeatedly argued that his suffering must be the result of wrongdoing.
- Job maintained his innocence while struggling to understand God's apparent silence.
- Their conversations raised difficult questions about suffering, righteousness, and God's justice.
- In chapter 28, we explored humanity's search for wisdom and discovered that true wisdom belongs to God.
- Job 28 concluded that fearing the Lord is true wisdom and turning away from evil is real understanding

WHEN GOD SEEMED NEAR

29:1-6



“Job continued speaking:
2 “I long for the years gone by
when God took care of me,
3 when he lit up the way before me
and I walked safely through the darkness.
4 When I was in my prime,
God’s friendship was felt in my home.
5 The Almighty was still with me,
and my children were around me.
6 My steps were awash in cream,
and the rocks gushed olive oil for me.”

WHEN GOD SEEMED NEAR



- Job's greatest longing wasn't for his former wealth, but for the closeness he once experienced with God

- Although Job continued seeking God, he no longer felt God's presence as he once had

- Feeling distant from God doesn't necessarily mean God has abandoned us

GOD'S PRESENCE AND GOD'S BLESSINGS AREN'T ALWAYS EXPERIENCED IN THE SAME WAY



A LIFE THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

29:7-17



“Those were the days when I went to the city gate
and took my place among the honored leaders.
8 The young stepped aside when they saw me,
and even the aged rose in respect at my coming.
9 The princes stood in silence
and put their hands over their mouths.
10 The highest officials of the city stood quietly,
holding their tongues in respect.
11 “All who heard me praised me.
All who saw me spoke well of me.
12 For I assisted the poor in their need
and the orphans who required help.
13 I helped those without hope, and they blessed me.
And I caused the widows’ hearts to sing for joy.
14 Everything I did was honest...

“...Righteousness covered me like a robe,
and I wore justice like a turban.
15 I served as eyes for the blind
and feet for the lame.
16 I was a father to the poor
and assisted strangers who needed help.
17 I broke the jaws of godless oppressors
and plucked their victims from their teeth.”

A LIFE THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE

- Job was respected not simply for his wealth, but for his character and concern for others

  - His righteousness was demonstrated through justice, compassion, and defending the vulnerable

    - True wisdom is reflected in how we live and treat those around us

GENUINE FAITH IS DEMONSTRATED NOT ONLY BY WHAT WE BELIEVE, BUT BY HOW WE LIVE



THE FUTURE JOB EXPECTED

29:18-25



“I thought, ‘Surely I will die surrounded
by my family
after a long, good life.[a]
19 For I am like a tree whose roots
reach the water,
whose branches are refreshed with
the dew.
20 New honors are constantly
bestowed on me,
and my strength is continually
renewed.’
21 “Everyone listened to my advice.
They were silent as they waited for
me to speak.
22 And after I spoke, they had nothing
to add,
for my counsel satisfied them.
23 They longed for me to speak as
people long for rain.
They drank my words like a
refreshing spring rain.
24 When they were discouraged, I
smiled at them.
My look of approval was precious to
them.
25 Like a chief, I told them what to do.
I lived like a king among his troops
and comforted those who mourned.”

THE FUTURE JOB EXPECTED

- Job expected his faithfulness and prosperity to continue throughout his life

    - His suffering shattered not only his present circumstances but also his expectations for the future

    - Faithful living doesn’t guarantee that life will unfold according to our plans

SOMETIMES WE GRIEVE NOT ONLY WHAT WE’VE LOST, BUT ALSO THE FUTURE WE EXPECTED

FROM RESPECT TO RIDICULE

30:1-15



“But now I am mocked by people
younger than I,
by young men whose fathers are
not worthy to run with my sheepdogs.
2 A lot of good they are to me—
those worn-out wretches!
3 They are gaunt from poverty and
hunger.
They claw the dry ground in
desolate wastelands.
4 They pluck wild greens from among
the bushes
and eat from the roots of broom trees.
5 They are driven from human society,
and people shout at them as if they
were thieves.
6 So now they live in frightening
ravines,
in caves and among the rocks.
7 They sound like animals howling
among the bushes,
huddled together beneath the
nettles.
8 They are nameless fools,
outcasts from society.

“And now they mock me with vulgar
songs!
They taunt me!
10 They despise me and won’t come
near me,
except to spit in my face.
11 For God has cut my bowstring.
He has humbled me,
so they have thrown off all
restraint.
12 These outcasts oppose me to my
face.
They send me sprawling
and lay traps in my path.
13 They block my road
and do everything they can to
destroy me.
They know I have no one to help me.
14 They come at me from all
directions.
They jump on me when I am down.
15 I live in terror now.
My honor has blown away in the
wind,
and my prosperity has vanished
like a cloud.”

FROM RESPECT TO RIDICULE

- Job went from being a respected community leader to becoming an object of ridicule

- His suffering affected his relationships, reputation, and sense of belonging

- One tragedy can create additional losses that extend far beyond the original hardship

SUFFERING OFTEN AFFECTS MORE AREAS OF OUR LIVES THAN WE INITIALLY REALIZE



WHEN SUFFERING SEEMS RELENTLESS



30:16-23

“And now my life seeps away.
Depression haunts my days.
17 At night my bones are filled with pain,
which gnaws at me relentlessly.
18 With a strong hand, God grabs my shirt.[a]
He grips me by the collar of my coat.
19 He has thrown me into the mud.
I’m nothing more than dust and ashes.20 “I cry to you, O God, but you don’t answer.
I stand before you, but you don’t even look.
21 You have become cruel toward me.
You use your power to persecute me.
22 You throw me into the whirlwind
and destroy me in the storm.
23 And I know you are sending me to my death—
the destination of all who live.”

WHEN SUFFERING SEEMS RELENTLESS



- Job cried out to God but felt that his prayers went unanswered
    - His suffering led him to make painful accusations about God’s treatment of him
        - Scripture allows us to hear Job’s honest anguish without requiring us to accept every conclusion he reaches

OUR FEELINGS DURING SUFFERING ARE REAL, BUT THEY DON’T ALWAYS REVEAL THE FULL TRUTH ABOUT GOD



THE PAIN OF UNANSWERED EXPECTATIONS

30:24-31



“Surely no one would turn against the needy
when they cry for help in their trouble.
25 Did I not weep for those in trouble?
Was I not deeply grieved for the needy?
26 So I looked for good, but evil came instead.
I waited for the light, but darkness fell.
27 My heart is troubled and restless.
Days of suffering torment me.
28 I walk in gloom, without sunlight.
I stand in the public square and cry for help.
29 Instead, I am considered a brother to jackals
and a companion to owls.
30 My skin has turned dark,
and my bones burn with fever.
31 My harp plays sad music,
and my flute accompanies those who weep.”

THE PAIN OF UNANSWERED EXPECTATIONS

- Job struggled to understand why a life of compassion and faithfulness had resulted in suffering

  - His circumstances were completely different fromw hat he believed his future would hold

    - Our relationship with God must be rooted in something deeper than the outcomes we expect

FAITHFULNESS ISN'T DEPENDENT UPON LIFE TURNING OUT THE WAY WE HOPED



INTEGRITY BEGINS IN PRIVATE

31:1-12



“I made a covenant with my eyes
not to look with lust at a young woman.
2 For what has God above chosen for us?
What is our inheritance from the Almighty on high?
3 Isn’t it calamity for the wicked
and misfortune for those who do evil?
4 Doesn’t he see everything I do
and every step I take?
5 “Have I lied to anyone
or deceived anyone?
6 Let God weigh me on the scales of justice,
for he knows my integrity.
7 If I have strayed from his pathway,
or if my heart has lusted for what my eyes have seen,
or if I am guilty of any other sin,
8 then let someone else eat the crops I have planted.
Let all that I have planted be uprooted.

9 “If my heart has been seduced by a
woman,
or if I have lusted for my neighbor’s
wife,
10 then let my wife serve[a] another man;
let other men sleep with her.
11 For lust is a shameful sin,
a crime that should be punished.
12 It is a fire that burns all the way to
hell.[b]
It would wipe out everything I own”

INTEGRITY BEGINS IN PRIVATE

- Job began his defense by addressing personal purity, honesty, and marital faithfulness

  - True righteousness involves our private decisions and inward desires, not just our public actions

  - Integrity is revealed by how we respond to temptation, even when no one else is watching

INTEGRITY IS WHO WE CHOOSE TO BE WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS WATCHING



HOW WE TREAT OTHERS MATTERS TO GOD

31:13-23



“If I have been unfair to my male or female servants
when they brought their complaints to me,
14 how could I face God?
What could I say when he questioned me?
15 For God created both me and my servants.
He created us both in the womb.
16 “Have I refused to help the poor,
or crushed the hopes of widows?
17 Have I been stingy with my food
and refused to share it with orphans?
18 No, from childhood I have cared for orphans like a father,
and all my life I have cared for widows.
19 Whenever I saw the homeless without clothes
and the needy with nothing to wear,
20 did they not praise me
for providing wool clothing to keep them warm?
21 “If I raised my hand against an orphan,
knowing the judges would take my side,
22 then let my shoulder be wrenched out of place!
Let my arm be torn from its socket!
23 That would be better than facing God’s judgment.
For if the majesty of God opposes me, what hope is there?

HOW WE TREAT OTHERS MATTERS TO GOD

- Job recognized that his servants and those less fortunate were created by the same God who created him

  - His compassion was rooted in the belief that every person possesses God-given dignity

    - We are accountable to God for how we treat others, regardless of their position or status

HOW WE TREAT OTHERS SHOULD REFLECT THE VALUE GOD HAS PLACED ON EVERY LIFE



WHEN GOOD THINGS BECOME FALSE GODS



31:24-28

“Have I put my trust in money
or felt secure because of my gold?
25 Have I gloated about my wealth
and all that I own?
26 “Have I looked at the sun shining in the
skies,
or the moon walking down its silver pathway,
27 and been secretly enticed in my heart
to throw kisses at them in worship?
28 If so, I should be punished by the judges,
for it would mean I had denied the God of
heaven.”

WHEN GOOD THINGS BECOME FALSE GODS

- Despite his former wealth, Job insisted that riches were never the foundaiton of his trust

- Job rejected worshiping created things in place of the Creator

- True wisdom influences what we trust, what we value, and what we worship

ANYTHING THAT REPLACES GOD AS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR TRUST CAN BECOME A FALSE GOD



INTEGRITY EXTENDS TO OUR ENEMIES AND STRANGERS

31:29-34



“Have I ever rejoiced when disaster struck my enemies,
or become excited when harm came their way?
30 No, I have never sinned by cursing anyone
or by asking for revenge.
31 “My servants have never said,
‘He let others go hungry.’
32 I have never turned away a stranger
but have opened my doors to everyone.
33 “Have I tried to hide my sins like other people do,
concealing my guilt in my heart?
34 Have I feared the crowd
or the contempt of the masses,
so that I kept quiet and stayed indoors?”

INTEGRITY EXTENDS TO OUR ENEMIES AND STRANGERS

- Job refused to celebrate the suffering of his enemies or wish harm upon them

  - His hospitality and honesty reflected a concern for others beyond his immediate relationships

    - Genuine integrity requires consistency between our public reputation and private character

TURE INTEGRITY IS REFLECTED IN OUR ACTIONS, ATTITUDES, AND TREATMENT OF OTHERS



JOB'S FINAL APPEAL

31:35-40



“If only someone would listen to me!
Look, I will sign my name to my defense.
Let the Almighty answer me.
Let my accuser write out the charges against me.
36 I would face the accusation proudly.
I would wear it like a crown.
37 For I would tell him exactly what I have done.
I would come before him like a prince.
38 “If my land accuses me
and all its furrows cry out together,
39 or if I have stolen its crops
or murdered its owners,
40 then let thistles grow on that land instead of wheat,
and weeds instead of barley.”
Job’s words are ended.”

JOB'S FINAL APPEAL

- Job confidently called upon God to examine his life and hear his defense

    - He believed that a fair examination would demonstrate his integrity

    - Job finished speaking without receiving the explanation he desperately wanted

JOB HAS PRESENTED HIS CASE, BUT GOD'S ANSWER WAS STILL TO COME



THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Job 29 — Remembering What Was:** Job reflected on his former blessings, his closeness with God, and the life of compassion he had lived.

2. **Job 30 — Facing What Is:** Job struggled with suffering that had changed nearly every aspect of his life and challenged his expectations.

3. **Job 31 — Defending How He Lived:** Job maintained that his life had been shaped by integrity, reverence for God, and concern for others.

Bottom Line: Our circumstances may change, but our commitment to living faithfully before God should remain.



THOUGHTS???

Job believed his servants deserved dignity because they were created by the same God who created him. How should that understanding influence the way Christians treat people today?

