# Understanding Discouragement Through Job

There are three things in this life that can hit close to home and cause a downfall of grief and anguish in our life. These three things are Health, Wealth, and Family. If one of these is attacked it leads to downfall of emotions that blur our vision in seeking God. If one gets attacked it is devasting. This can cause discouragement, with it comes anxiety, hopelessness, depression, and isolation.

 What about if all three are hit? I cannot utterly understand that feeling. Especially if all three are hit close at the same time. However, we have one who faced this in this life and that is Job. Job lost all he had physically speaking. Job as we are reminded in the New Testament was a man of perseverance (**James 5:11**).

 As we begin to understand Job, he was a blessed man (**Jon 1:1-5**). He had wealth, was in good health, and had many children. He was a man who shunned evil and was a righteous man. He was also a man who God spoke highly of (**Job 1:8**). He was one who God confessed as being a righteous man.

 Yet in all this here is Satan lurking around and is the expert in temptation and the father of sin who enters the picture. He tempts Job (**Job 1:12**) (**Job 2:6**).

 Look at what happens to Job. He loses his wealth and family (**Job 1:13-22**). He has only a few servants left who bring him news. Each one is the sole survivor. Job loses servants, oxen, sheep, donkeys, camels, and then gets the final blow here that he lost all his children. How devastating is that? But look how Job responds he tears his clothes shaves his head and worshipped God.

 It does not stop there (**Job 2:7-10**). His health is now attacked. He has boils all over his body and is using broken pottery to relieve himself. His wife comes in who also experienced these losses with Job. After she sees his condition, she is doing the devil’s work. She says, “Curse God and Die!” Yet Job in this moment tells her she is foolish in her actions, and he does not sin with his lips.

 You would think that would be enough, but the discouragement does not stop there. He has friends to come and comfort, and they do a respectable job at first (**Job 2:11-13**). Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar see him and do not recognize him from afar and they too join Job in comforting him by not saying a word.

 It is when they open their mouths that discouragement continues. Job cursed the day of his birth. He wished he were never born. He wished that there were no announcements of his conception (**Job 3**). From there his friends each offered some advice Bildad told him he needed to repent (**Job 8**). Eliphaz told him He did not fear God (**Job 15**). Zophar really kicked him down after all the losses and says you deserve worse (**Job 11**). I cannot imagine after all the losses and especially losing not just one, but all my children would put me at my lowest point. But a friend telling me that I deserve worse than this feeling is not a comforter. In fact, Job calls them miserable comforters instead (**Job 16:2-4**).

 It finally comes to the b oiling point where he comes to God and speaks out turn and I want you to consider these final points. Trust in God and know we have one who cares for us (**I Peter 5:7**)

1. God Interjects (**Job 38**)
2. Job Responds (**Job 40:3-5**0
3. Job Repents (**Job 42:1-6**)
4. God tells Jobs friends to make amends (**Job 42:7-9**)
5. Job is blessed (**Job 42:10-17**)

Job at one point realizes he was wrong and overcame the discouragement through his perseverance. But that was through his trust in God. He spoke out turn and this is what discouragement can do in not allowing us to think or see clearly. But we can overcome, and God is there ready and able to help if we will seek him (**I Corinthians 10:13**).

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