

Job Lesson 1 | Job 1:1-2:13 | 6/2/13

- Book of Job
 - The book of Job is very old and people differ on when it was written and by whom it was written. Some believe it to be the oldest book in the Bible with the writing dated prior to Moses.
 - This book gives us insight to a time before there was written revelation from God.
 - This book shows the mystery of the way that God works in our lives through the suffering of a good man a just man who feared God and was innocent.
 - Why would God permit this just and innocent man to suffer? We will examine the scripture and see what God wants to teach us from this.
- Job the man (Job 1:1-3)
 - **Read verses 1-3**
 - Verse 1
 - The book of Job starts off in the first three verses by telling us of the character of Job as well as his social status.
 - We see that he was a man of perfect integrity who feared God and turned away from evil.
 - There is arguably not a better complement that you can give to someone than to say these things.
 - Perfect integrity
 - Definition of Integrity-
 - *Adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral **character**; honesty.*
 - *Incorruptible-incapable of being bribed or morally corrupted.*
 - **Has anyone ever been described that way as having perfect integrity? No probably not.**
 - **What does integrity mean to you?**
 - This story of Job and what happened to him is an excellent example for us to learn that even someone as perfect as Job that life can still be rough and the importance of maintaining our integrity through even the most difficult of life's circumstances.
 - In fact our faith and trust in God is what actually gets us through those difficult times.
 - The description of Job's character tells us he was a man of moral integrity in all relations of his life as a father, a husband and a worshipper of God. All aspects of his life.
 - For him to be considered perfect then he held his integrity with everything not just portions of his life.
 - I think for us we can hold certain portions of our life as being obedient and true to God, but perhaps there are portions of our lives that perhaps our integrity is not quite so perfect.
 - Maybe your integrity holds up really well until say you go to a ball game that your kid is playing in and the refs aren't making the calls you want.
 - All of a sudden your integrity goes out the door and you're no different than anyone else, yelling screaming and cussing.
 - But you get away from the ball game and you're good again.

- Then we justify this with well I was good during the rest of the week I just need to vent at the ball games. And so we have now falsely justified this in our minds.
- This wasn't Job.
- He had perfect integrity in EVERYTHING.
- Job feared of the Lord and turned away from evil
 - Scripture on numerous occasions tells us the importance of fearing God.
 - In fact it is the first Proverb, the wise King Solomon tells us that to fear the lord is the beginning of Knowledge.
 - Proverbs 1:7
 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline."
 - The most important thing that we are to know and do before we know or learn anything else is that God is to be feared.
 - He is to be revered or to be respected.
 - He is to be served and worshipped.
 - For us to receive the rest of the instruction from God we are to fear him as our minds must completely respect him and we must submit ourselves into complete obedience.
 - How can you learn without respect for the teacher?
 - When we fear God we are careful in everything to please him and we are fearful of offending him.
 - **Comparison to parent or Drill instructor.**
 - **Doesn't a child who has the utmost respect for their parent also have some fear?**
 - **How can you NOT fear God? He created you he can take you away.**
 - When we fear God we are always aware of God's presence. Knowing that God is always there will produce a Godly lifestyle, you don't want to do evil because you fear God because he is there watching you.
 - Proverbs 8:13
 - To fear the Lord is to hate evil. I hate arrogant pride, evil conduct, and perverse speech.
 - God detests evil we don't want what God hates.
 - Proverbs 16:6
 - "Wickedness is atoned for by loyalty and faithfulness, and one turns from evil by the fear of the Lord."
 - If we fear God a by-product of that is to turn from evil.
 - This is why to fear God is the foundation to everything else, if God is not your foundation and you have no care or regard for him because you have no fear of retribution, then how can you learn anything else?
 - You are simply then a fool as it stated in Proverbs 1:7
 - "Fools despise wisdom and discipline"
 - It is our duty and primary concern.
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13
 - "When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is: fear God and keep His commands, because this is for all humanity. For God will bring

every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil.

- **This is an important truth that we must understand.**
- **I find it hard to understand for myself that since I believe in the Omni presence of God that he is always there. If I truly believe that which I do ...why do I still choose to sin in his presence? Sure there are numerous occasions where I don't because I know he is there but sometimes that isn't enough and I do it anyways....I supposed that is when I let my flesh win the battle...I give in.**
- **Do you fear God?**
- **What does fearing God meant to you?**
- **Does fearing God affect the decisions you make?**
- Verses 2-3 (Job's wealth)
 - These verses tell us of Job's wealth and we can see everything that God has blessed him with
 - His children
 - He had seven sons and 3 daughters. The number 7 in the Bible is often used as a symbol for perfect or complete and the fact that they were all sons was very significant because during the culture at that time they put a high value on male offspring.
 - The number of his children would have been looked upon as a sign of success or perhaps the perfect family.
 - His wealth
 - Wealth was measured in livestock and servants this is what drove their economy.
 - The numbers that Job had showed that he was very wealthy.
 - The greatest man among the people of the East
 - Because of his perfect family and his wealth he was held in a very high honor amongst all the people of the East.
 - God had blessed him because of his faithfulness and his fear of God.
- Job Overall
 - Character
 - So Job the man of perfect integrity who was incorruptible.
 - The man who feared God, he regarded God's authority and dreaded his wrath.
 - Job dreading the thought of doing what was wrong and he was constantly in a state of watchfulness and avoiding evil.
 - Wealth
 - God had blessed him in everything and he was very wealthy.
 - **We see that Job had it all his fear and worship of God allowed him to be blessed, and he never abandoned God even with his riches.**
 - **Would you say that Job was the model Christian?**
- So knowing that Job was this model Christian let's examine the next verses and see why Job ended up losing everything....
- God and Satan discuss Job's integrity (Job 1:6-12)
 - **Read verses 6-12**
 - Verse 8
 - So Satan and God have a meeting. Satan who was once an angel but now fallen has been roaming the earth, obviously up to no good right?
 - Then God points out his servant Job to him and tells Satan what we have just studied about Job which is that he is a man of perfect integrity who fears God and turns away from evil.

- Verses 9-11
 - However Satan’s impression of Job is that the only reason why Job is so devoted to God is because of all the blessings That God has given Job.
 - Satan believed that Job’s fear and faith in God was superficial and that if you removed all the good from his life that Job would turn from God and curse him.
- Verse 12
 - So God then doesn’t take anything away from Job himself but he lets Satan have at everything he owns, he just cannot touch Job himself.
 - Why would God allow this?
 - This test comes down to one important question.
 - **“Are we capable of being devoted to God solely on the basis of who he is rather than what he does”**
 - If you look at your life now do you worship him and respect him only because he blesses you?
- **Are you devoted to God in the Good times and the bad?**
- **When you had a dark time in your life what was your attitude towards God?**
- Genuine faith can be shown when we are in our darkest hour, when we have nothing but God. Are we still faithful to him then?
- We are to worship and love God regardless of our circumstances.
- The first test- Job loses everything (Job1:13-22)
 - ***Read Job 1:13-22***
 - Job’s Losses
 - Satan struck Job with a series of unrelenting blows.
 - He lost his herds flocks and all of his livestock.
 - So he lost his income that was just like us losing everything in our bank accounts.
 - He lost nearly all of his servants.
 - He lost his children.
 - This was certainly the most devastating of all, in one instant he lost all his children to the equivalent of a tornado.
 - **So Job who had everything and was the perfect model Christians has just lost everything.**
 - **When we look at peaks and valleys in our lives the peaks being the good and the valley the bad, Job literally just fell off of the mountain.**
 - Job mourned as was customary and tore his robe and then shaved his head...but it was the next thing that he did that might seem surprising to those around him that witnessed this calamity.
 - Job 1:21b-22
 - “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will leave this life. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Praise the name of Yahweh.
 - You see Job recognized intelligent design and that God had his hand in everything.
 - Job was aware that when he came into this world he had nothing and all that he had obtained was because of God and God could remove what he had given if he chose to.
 - Job was showing that he was very submissive to God knowing that all he had was because of him.
 - In fact he didn’t blame anyone for what happened not the the Sabeans not the Chaldeans not even the storm.
 - Even though difficult it was he knew that God was in control of his affairs.
 - And in all this he never sinned.
 - Job 1:22

- “Throughout all this Job did not sin or blame God for anything”
 - Job knew that God was involved but he did not blame him. He did not bring hate towards God for what happened.
 - Job through all of this loss that he suffered, knowing that God was involved yet he did not sin.
 - **Our natural reaction is to cast blame on someone when something bad happens, yet Job didn’t do this to God.**
 - Job still worshiped God and praised him.
 - Know Satan didn’t hear what he had expected.
 - Job did “not” blame God and he did “not” curse him to his face.
 - **Job maintained his integrity, his fear of God and resisted evil....even when he lost everything.**
 - **If you lost everything like Job what would your attitude towards God be?**
 - **What do you think of this passage of scripture from Job 1:21**
 - **Job 1:21b**
 - **The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away.**
 - **What are some ways we can show trust in the Lord during adversity (unfavorable experience)?**
- The second test-Job Loses his health (Job 2:3-8)
 - **Read Job 2:3-8**
 - So God tells Satan see!! I told you he would maintain his integrity!
 - So Satan is like well maybe so but I want to take it a step further and show you that he will curse you when his health is affected.
 - Satan says that a man will give up everything for his health.
 - So God allows Satan power over his body but not his life and Satan afflicts him with terrible boils all over his body.
 - This was apparently pretty terrible as you read further in Job and he gives a greater description of his affliction and it’s pretty bad, he is near death and suffering.
 - Job’s wife tells him to give up...but Job’s integrity prevails. (Job 1:9-10)
 - **Read Job 1:9-10**
 - Job’s wife has obviously been going through this ordeal as well and the first loss affected her obviously as well.
 - She has seen Job maintain his integrity through this whole process....however this is apparently now too much for her.
 - She tells Job to give up! That you cannot continue to respect God through this you need to curse God and die!
 - It would be expected that after doing this that perhaps God would simply strike him down.
 - She wanted him to be put out of his misery.
 - But Job says this:
 - Job 2:10
 - “You speak as a foolish woman speaks, he told her. Should we accept only good from God and not adversity? Throughout all this Job did not sin in what he said.
 - Job’s statement is very significant. Should we only accept the good things and not adversity or experiences that are unfavorable?
 - Our relationship with God is that we acknowledge that he is in total control. We fear him and we respect him.

- Regardless of what happens in our lives we are to give him the glory and we are to worship him.
- God's ways are not our ways.
 - Isaiah 55:9
 - "For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts"
 - God is an infinite being while we are finite. We cannot even begin to fully understand his ways.
- **Job teaches us that regardless of how bad life may get, because it will. We must NEVER lose our integrity; we must always fear God and we must always turn away from evil.**