

A Deepening Relationship Job 9 – 13

A Deepening Relationship Introduction

- We don't like difficulties.
- We don't want trials.
- We all hate suffering.
- But we all experience all of the above.

- The Book of Job is the Bible's textbook on the topic of seemingly pointless grief.
- We learn that there is an enemy of our souls, "the Satan," who is trying to turn us against God.
- We also learn that God gives him a limited amount of freedom to do as he pleases.
 - *Satan cannot touch the child of God without the heavenly Father's permission. This is a great encouragement to us, for we know that whatever suffering may come to our lives, God has ordained it and is in complete control. The one thing God will not control is how we respond to this suffering, and it is here that Satan can gain his purpose.*
 - Warren Wiersbe

**The greater our difficulties become, the more deeply God asks us to trust him.
Deeper trust grows out of a deepening relationship with God.**

- We'll now look at more of Job's saga, beginning in Job 9.

There is no arbiter. Job 9:1-3, 32-33

- 9:33 There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both.
- The Hebrew word "arbiter" or "mediator" is concerned with legal or non-legal disputes.
- Other forms can be used to describe the beginning of a dispute, the disputation in progress, or the settling of it.

- Job sees no way he could ever win if he brings his case before God.
 - *If God is the prosecuting attorney, jury and judge, where can justice be found? The only hope for justice would be if God were a man like Job.*
 - Prof. T. Habtu, Ethiopian Bible Teacher

- Many centuries before Christ, Job was able to see his need for Jesus, the perfect mediator.
- 1 Timothy 2:5-6 *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.*

"Job, you must be guilty." Job 11:1-6

- Zophar's error: Suffering is always the result of sin.
- At the beginning of the book we heard God bragging that there was no one better than Job.
- That would include Zophar.

- Three things to know about sin and suffering:
 1. Sin does not always directly cause suffering.
 2. Suffering is not always the direct result of sin.
 3. To see the relationship between sin and suffering we have to zoom out a lot farther.
- The Bigger Picture
- Without sin there would be no suffering.
- Suffering is ultimately the result of the sin that human beings introduced into God's good creation.
- Thank God, he has not abandoned us to sin's full effects.
- Christ has taken the full effect of sin for us.
- 1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.*

**The greater our difficulties become, the more deeply God asks us to trust him.
Deeper trust grows out of a deepening relationship with God.**

Trust at the Deepest Level Job 13:15a

- Though he slay me, I will hope in him; (ESV)
- God might kill me, but I have no other hope. (NLT)
- Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. (KJV & NKJV)
- When life doesn't make sense, we won't always know why things are happening.
- At such times we need to know God.
- Zophar has a belief system.
- Job is learning to trust the God in whom he believes.
- If our Christianity is merely agreement with a Statement of Faith, it will fall short of the living relationship we need.
- Doctrine is essential, but there are times when need more than doctrine.
- In life's most difficult struggles, we need a personal knowledge of God.
 - *The whole point of vital Christianity is ... a matter of personal relationship, and it is the kind of thing that Job went through which brings a man to this ...*
 - Oswald Chambers (1874 – 1917)
- Trust at the Deepest Level Job 13:15a
- We may not understand our suffering, but we can trust a God who is willing to suffer for us.
- 1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit*
 - *What we can be sure of is that God is about his redemptive work, as he always is, and has chosen us to participate in that work by sharing, at least for a while, in some of the same kind of suffering his own Son experienced.*
 - Michael James Williams, author and Old Testament specialist

- 1 Peter 4:12-13 *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*
 - *God's redemptive plan involves nothing less than the liberation of creation and his people from sin and death ... He has given us ... a taste of that redemption even now, along with an abiding relationship with him that no circumstance, however horrible it may be, can ever sever.*
 - *Michael James Williams, author and Old Testament specialist*

A Deepening Relationship Conclusions

- *Remember Warren Wiersbe's point from the Introduction:*
 - *The one thing God will not control is how we respond to this suffering, and it is here that Satan can gain his purpose.*

- What steps can we take when Satan attacks us in order to avoid letting him get the upper hand?
 1. Recognize your absolute need for Jesus Christ.
 2. Thank God in the midst of your trials.
 3. Spend as much time as you can in God's Word.
 4. Glorify God as much as possible.

- 1. Recognize your absolute need for Jesus Christ.
 - Think back to Job 13:15a.
 - John 6:67-69 *Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."*

- 2. Thank God in the midst of your trials.
 - Ephesians 5:20 *... giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

- 3. Spend as much time as you can in God's Word.
 - Psalm 119:67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.*
 - Psalm 119:71 *It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.*

- 4. Glorify God as much as possible.
 - 1 Peter 2:20 *For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.*
 - 1 Peter 4:16 *Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.*

Four steps to dealing with suffering:

1. Recognize your absolute need for Jesus Christ.
2. Thank God in the midst of your trials.
3. Spend as much time as you can in God's Word.
4. Glorify God as much as possible.

**The greater our difficulties become, the greater our need is to trust.
Deeper trust grows out of a deepening relationship with God.**