

THANK GOD FOR OUR HEALTH!

(Scripture - Job. 2:7-10)

Introduction:

Job. 2:1-3. 1Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. 2The LORD said to Satan, Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." 3The LORD said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause."

This passage is almost similar to the previous chapter 1. Vs 6-8 word for word. I do not want to repeat everything what I said about these dramatized passages. You may read it in my second sermon on Job - "Beware of the adversary" from our website. Just the latter part of verse 3 changes a little bit. Here the Lord says that Job still holds fast his integrity! Then He says, "although you incited me against him to ruin him without any cause? This whole scene seems to be baffling. It appears God is forced to deal with Satan concerning Job.

☞ Why should God comply to Satan's request for testing Job and ruin his family?

☞ Why does God allow Satan to test Job again?

☞ Why should Job become a guinea pig for the Lord and Satan?

This passage poses lot of questions with no answers.

There is a parallel passage in New Testament! Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Let me ask you this question:

Did God tell the devil to test Jesus? Mathew says so. He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4)

Mark says that Spirit lead Him to the wilderness, and He was tempted by the devil. (Mark 1).

Luke says that He was led around by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days being tempted by the devil. (Luke 4).

I prefer Mark and Luke version. That gives us a clearer answer. The devil always roams around like a roaring lion. He would tempt anyone including Jesus. His purpose is to kill and destroy, especially the children of God. He did just that to Job. God allows this kind of suffering to purify us and strengthen our faith!

But the dialogue between God and Satan becomes too crude in the following dramatized conversation. (Warning: please do not judge God's character and holiness and love through these conversations!)

Job 2:4,5 4Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5"However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." 6So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."

Now Satan proposes another cruel plan. Skin for skin? Tough language to understand. Satan insinuates that people start screaming only when they are at the end of the rope of their lives.

Satan suggests that if God touches his skin, bones, and flesh with pain, Job will curse God. The Lord gave him permission to afflict Job, but Satan must spare his life. A cruel test for Job.

When health fails everything fails, the life that we lead becomes more of pain, anguish, suffering and torture. Everyday dawns and it only brings more sufferings and no relief in sight. When it happens to young people, we can always hope that they will bounce back sooner or later. But when we are old, the hope of living departs from us. The meaning for prolonged life loses its meaning. When the pain of living starts hitting us, death becomes sweeter than the life on earth. Some people become so bitter, they will start getting angry with people around them, and they may start lamenting, cursing, and swearing. Our personality does change when we are near the door of death. Only people who cling to Jesus at that time can still trust Him even during death. When someone suffers with excruciating pain, no comforting words can soothe that person. There is a sense of helplessness in that house. As a matter of fact, the entire household may go through that pain psychologically. Only our prayers of hope can keep us connected with God. Suffering is indeed a purifying fire. People who suffer will not sin. Let us see how Job suffered.

Job 2:7,8 7Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8And he took a potsherd to scrape himself while he was sitting among the ashes.

I assume, Job was not an old man. Probably he was in his 40s or 50s. In those days, people lived very long. He was too young to go through this harsh suffering. Now Satan went to work. He became the hit man. He took pleasure of smiting Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head! It was not only painful but was very itchy too. He took something like a broken pot and started using it to scratch. He sat among the ashes, a clear sign of mourning and repentance.

Job 2:9,10 9Then his wife said to him, Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10But he said to her, You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Here you can see a wife who cannot take it anymore. With the little faith she had, she snapped. This is the stage people start using profanity very fluently. They become so angry they start cursing everything and everyone, and God. She wanted Job to follow her footsteps! For her it was a vain exercise to trust in God anymore. She was indeed angry with God. When everything went well in her life, she must have praised and worshipped God. But now when all her blessings were stripped off, she lost her faith in God. Instead of turning Job toward God, she encouraged him to abandon God! There was so much anger and bitterness in the air.

Job rebuked her and called her a foolish woman. Yes, only a foolish person will say, forget about God. This is the time we really need His presence in our life. "Yea, we walk through the shadow of death, we shall fear no evil. For thou art with me!" (Ps. 23)

Job displayed his profound wisdom here!
Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?"

Job understood that everything comes from God. He accepted the fact that God gives, and God takes it away. But now he insists that we must accept the sovereignty of God. We must accept adversity also along with great blessings. In God's hand, adversity can turn into blessings!

Joseph's story is a good example!

Sold as a slave/ falsely accused and was put in prison. But God lifted him up!

Joseph told his brothers, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good. (Gen. 50:20)

In all this Job did not sin with his lips. So, did he sin in his spirit? Jesus said that we will be judged by every word we speak.

Let us carefully study the lessons of suffering from both these chapters. I think, we have a clear answer of how we must face our sufferings. I will be repeating the summary from last week also.

Conclusion:

1. Sometimes tragedy is inevitable. Be prepared to let go off our loved ones sooner or later.
2. What we have, our friends and family members are from the Lord. While they are with us, cherish their company, cherish them, love them.
3. Remember, God gives them, and God may take them away. Let the Lord be our portion.
4. Naked we came, and naked we return to the Lord.
5. Learn to praise our God even through our tragedies. In Christ, it is always well with my soul!
6. Sometimes, we cannot figure out the "why" part of our tragedy. Just hold the hands of Jesus and get through that tragedy.
7. Never trust your wealth. Never trust your ability to produce income. Never trust your family support. Trust only in the Lord! He is the only eternal helper for us!
8. If we receive good things from the Lord, can we not accept His sovereignty when bad things happen to us?
9. God is not the author of evil. But devil is. God has allowed him to run around loose to test us!
10. Bless the Lord even though the going gets rough.
11. When there is excessive pain and suffering, identify with Christ's pain on the cross. Even He shouted Eloi, Elio lama Sabachthani. (My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?). Even He pleaded in garden of Gethsemane to take that cup away. If that painful suffering happens to the green wood, why not to the dry wood like us? Pray for His peace.

Excessive pain binds us together with the Lord. Excessive pain binds us together with all our loved ones. They also start empathizing that pain!

12. Thank God for our doctors, nurses, health care professionals, research scientists, pain medications, and pain management. During Job time they did not have any pain medicine. Wine and strong medicines were their pain medicines. But now we have so many. Thank God for it!

Thank God if you have good health. Please do not take it for granted! Good health is one of the greatest blessings of our life.

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