

November 1, 2015

“Trusting God in a Time of Trouble”

Job 13:15 NKJV

Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.

Do you know that before I preach a sermon to you, God preaches it to me? And this message today is for me. I share it with you as a preacher, but mostly as a pastor, as your pastor. For I know there are others here today besides myself who need to hear this message. There are a lot of people this morning who are going through a time of trouble; a time of hurt; a time of loneliness, discouragement, uncertainty. Some have faced, this week, or recently, things that have been absolutely devastating to them. So I want to do everything I can this morning to be a pastor. That doesn't mean I'm not going to preach. I'm going to preach from this verse: Job 13:15 NKJV: Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. And I am going to preach on this thought of: “Trusting God in a Time of Trouble”

When God is all you've got. He is all you need. Don't ever forget that. When you are driven to the very edge of unbelief; When you are driven to the very brink of despair, if you believe that God exists and that God is good, and that God is loving and His plan is on course, and so you choose to trust Him, then His Spirit will speak into the deep place of your soul and in that place God will anchor you in hope. (Based on a quote by Larry Crabb)

Here before us today is a study of a man by the name of Job. Job is not remembered for his TRIUMPHS. Job is remembered for his TRIALS. It seems like when there are difficulties in the life of the believers that God always reminds us of the book of Job. Job faced problems and great difficulty in his life to a degree that none of us will ever experience, at least I pray we never do. But Job said in the midst of his devastation in the midst of his battle “I will trust in God”

Aren't you glad today that we have Somebody that we can lean on and look too and listen for in the days of trouble in our life?

If you study the book of Job you will find that there are 5 things that happened in his life.

You'll Find that:

Disaster Took Job's Fortune – In 1 24 hr period Job lost everything that he had ever worked for his entire life. In one day it was all gone. I have learned along the way that it does not pay to trust in material things because you can lose them in a flash, you can lose them in a moment. I believe that we would all do well to say with the song writer that “my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' Blood and righteousness”.

Praise God, that is something that affliction and adversity cannot take from the Child of God; My Salvation and my position in Jesus Christ. I can lose my STUFF, But I can never lose my soul. Whether peace or sorrow, whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to

say, "It is well, it is well with my soul." Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Christ has shed His own blood for my soul.

Disease Tortured Job's body – He broke out in terrible, painful boils from head to toe and he began to suffer from a physical standpoint.

I heard a woman say one time that if you are saved and filled with the Holy Spirit that you will never get sick. I looked at her and said, "You have a cold!" And she did have a cold, a very bad cold, perhaps the flu! Let me just tell you today that being saved through faith in Jesus and sanctified or set apart for God by the Holy Spirit does not exempt you from pain or suffering. Some of the greatest Christians I know and have known have had to go through physical suffering.

Death Touched Job's Family – Job knew what it was like to stand by the grave of not one but 10 of the most precious people in his life: his children: 7 sons and 3 daughters.

I would say that just about everyone here today has had to go to the funeral home and knows what it is like to stand at the graveside of someone you love.

Many times the devil will come to you and say, "Where is your God? If He really loved you if He really cared about you He would not have allowed this to happen in your life." But aren't you glad that we know Somebody Who can bring hope to what seems to be a hopeless situation. One of His titles is I Am the Resurrection and the Life. I'm so thankful that for a Child of God death is not the end but it is only good-bye for just a little while, because we know that because He Lives we will too.

Deceit Turned Job's Friends – Can you imagine losing everything you had, wealth, loved ones, health then on top of that your so called friends come by and instead of bringing comfort and praying for you, they criticize or even worse blame you & your lack of faith as the reason for your problems? Job's friends basically said, "Job you are the reason you are going through this; it's just that you must not be right with God." Job's own wife even said why don't you just go ahead and curse God and die and get it over with.

No doubt there are people in this room today who have been let down by friends and family. You know what it is like to have a loved one or a friend fail you when you needed them the most. But aren't you thankful that we also have friends who stick closer than a brother. And aren't you glad we have The One who calls us friend who will never turn against you, He will always be there, He will Never let you down. He will never leave you. He is everything that He ever claimed to be and a whole lot more.

There is One thing that did not happen to Job: **The devil did not destroy Job's faith** – The devil said to God "You just watch what he does. I'll take everything that he's got, and he will curse you to your face." Oh was the devil ever a liar. Job received one bad news after another and the devil said OK just watch him, he's about to curse You and turn away from his God. But instead we read this ... **Job 1:20-22**

Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The LORD gave me what I had, and the LORD has taken it away. Praise the name of the LORD!"

In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.

Job tore his robe in grief shaved his head - as these were expressions of great sorrow at that time - and fell to the ground and ... and he didn't do what you'd expect... he worshipped ... and praised God. Didn't you expect a different outcome, that he fell to the ground and cursed God in anger; or fell to the ground and shouted, "why me Lord?" That he fell to the ground and blamed God, complained to God, accused God of abandonment. But no, he fell down to worship and praise the name of the Lord. He did right when everything went WRONG. And when God was all that he had. God was enough.

The best teachers in any church are not the ones in the pulpit. Rather, they are sitting in the pews right next to you—people who have suffered and yet still worship the Lord. The language of those who learn through suffering is praise! – David Wilkerson

I am trying to tell you that we can trust God in the time of trouble and I believe that Job 13:15 has the secret, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Job was saying, "no matter what may come to me or of me, I trust God."

Aren't you glad you serve a God that is trustworthy, dependable, you can count on God He will always be there.

Let's look at three reasons why Job could trust in God in a Time of Trouble.

1. Job Trusted In God's Divine Power

Job 19:23-25a

"Oh, that my words could be recorded. Oh, that they could be inscribed on a monument, carved with an iron chisel and filled with lead, engraved forever in the rock.

"But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives.

I like what Job says here in Chapter 19. Job says, "what I am about to say is so important somebody needs take an iron pen and engrave it into the side of a rock." And what does he say, what should be engrave in stone? It is this, "I know that my Redeemer lives."

He did not say I know that HIS redeemer or HER redeemer THEIR redeemer lives. But he said I know that MY REDEEMER LIVES.

Aren't you glad this relationship between you and Jesus Christ is a ONE on ONE relationship and that it is a personal experience. The LORD is MY SHEPHERD I'm His / He is Mine.

Job says I KNOW that MY Redeemer Lives. He did not say I HOPE / I THINK / I SUPPOSE; He said I KNOW that my Redeemer lives

Aren't you glad that this Salvation that you and I have received by the gift of GRACE is a KNOW so experience, not a HOPE so or a THINK so. We know He is our redeemer.

I am glad that the storms, troubles and the trials in life do not take away our redemption and our salvation. I am glad that we are on our way to Heaven and it doesn't matter what happens in this life between here and Eternity.

I love what Job says in verse 25 I Know MY Redeemer LIVES. Job says, "God's not dead He's surely alive"

I like that this word, LIVES means right now with continuous action. It means that He lives and He never stops living. He is alive today and forever. He always was, always will be, and always remains the same.

Life is made up of good days and bad days, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. - Pastor Jim Cymbala

I want to tell you that when the bottom falls out in our life and when the storm comes and the lightning flashes and the thunder rolls we have a Redeemer Who lives.

2. Job Trusted In God's Definite Purpose

Job 23:10

But he knows where I am going.
And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold.

In Chapter 19 Job says I Know Him; In Chapter 23 he says He Knows Me. In 23 he says I may not always know where He is, but He always knows where I am.

He "knows" means that He knows right now, and He is going to keep on knowing. And that little word KNOW means more than just knowledge. It means – Personal experience –to be in touch- to be acquainted – to be involved in ones life. I want to tell you He is acquainted with you / aware of you / in touch with you.

Hebrews 4:14-15

So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

He knows: Who I am / Where I am / What I need / He knows where I am going . He not only Knows but He cares; He not only cares but He is able; He's not only able He's willing.

And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. God knows how to purify our lives and bring out the gold. Trials will strengthen our faith and our faith is worth more than gold.

1 Peter 1:7

These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

The devil comes at you to bring out the worst in you. But God comes to bring out the best in you. Someone might say the Lord put me through this to find out what I was made of. I got news for you He knew what you were made of He wanted you to know what you are made of. Someone says the Lord put me through that trial to see whether I really LOVED Him or not. No He allowed you to go through that to let YOU see whether you really LOVED Him or not.

Job said right now I am being hit from every side and I don't understand and I don't have all of the answers. But there is one thing I am sure of, God knows what He is doing and He knows me and what I need and when it is over I will come out as pure as gold.

God's got a purpose and He will never get detoured from His purpose. I do not believe in luck or coincidence (when God acts but chooses to remain anonymous); I don't live guided by my horoscope. I live each day guided by the unseen hand of a Sovereign God Who has a purpose in my life. Ultimately, His purpose is to make me like Jesus, to refine me as gold. I may not always like what it take to get me there.

I don't like to eat raw flour / raw eggs / (anyone here ever taste Crisco?) / anyone pour chocolate syrup in their mouth... well maybe some / I wouldn't eat a slab of butter. But I sure to like Chocolate cake. And you've got to have the Flour / Eggs / syrup/ butter to bake a chocolate cake.

See it's when you take each one of those things and start mixing them together at just the right portions at just the right time you get Chocolate cake. It's like Paul said,

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

That just means that when you are going through it and you are getting egg in your face and flour in your eyes and lard in your mouth, and milk on your head; just lick your

tongue and say, "Hmm, God must be making Himself a Chocolate cake."

When you are going through it just trust God's definite purpose in your life.

3. Job Trusted in God's Delightful Promise

Job 19: 25-27

I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!"

Job was not so overwhelmed with problems at hand that he forgot about the Promised Land. Job looked beyond the veil of suffering; Job looked beyond the veil of tears; And he saw a better day and a better world - a better promise. Job said one day I'll have a new body; Job said one day there will be no more tears; I will have a new home / I will see my Redeemer.

Aren't you glad that this isn't all there is for the child of God but that it gets better farther on down the road. As Paul wrote:

Romans 8:18 NASB

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

There was an old maid who lived alone her whole life never traveling far from her home. She developed cancer and knew she didn't have long to live. So she drew out funds from her savings and took an airplane to NY. She had never flown before and always wanted to see NY. When she arrived she took a limousine to the hotel where she would be staying. She had never driven in a limousine before and had never stayed in a hotel either, but it is always something she wanted to do. She had heard how beautiful the rooms were in the NY hotels. She heard that there were beautiful pictures on the walls, plush carpets and a big bed. She signed in at the desk and was told that a gentleman who help her with her luggage and show her to her room. They got on the elevator. She looked around the elevator; there were no pictures, no carpet, no bed. She looked at the gentleman helping her with her luggage and said, "You mean that this is all there is too it?"

"No, no Madam," he said, "don't cry you are just on the elevator. What you have been waiting for is up there."

Sometimes the devil says you are a failure; I've won. But don't cry, we are just on the elevator. What we have been waiting for is up there.