

The Patience of Job

Int.

1. Aim: To tell about the patience of Job and lessons for us.
2. Jas. 5:10-11 - patience of Job - "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. 11. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."
 - a. James was exhorting the brethren to be patient. He gives the prophets as examples
 - b. The word Patience in v. 10 = forbearance or fortitude, longsuffering
 - c. Endure - v. 11 = to stay under, remain, to bear trials, persevere, suffer
 - d. Patience v.11 = cheerful or hopeful endurance, constancy, patient continuance or waiting
 - e. NKJV "you have heard of the perseverance of Job"
 - f. ESV "You have heard of the steadfastness of Job"
 - g. Job is the greatest example of patience found in the Bible
3. Man is going to have problems in life - Job is an example of that - Job 14:1-2 "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.."
 - a. Job. 23:10 - tried - come forth as gold. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."
 - b. Job suffered with many problems in his life.
4. We will study about this man called Job and how he is an example of patience for us !

PART 1

Discussion

I. WHO IS JOB ?

A. Who was this man called Job?

1. He was a real historical person, not a myth or legend - some think he is an imaginary character
2. He was an ordinary man - real person just like Noah, Daniel or Abraham.
3. The Old Testament book of Job is all about his life. He is also mentioned in Ezekiel 14:14, 20 and in the New Testament at James 5:11
4. He lived during the Patriarchal age, possibly about the same time as Abraham
5. He lived in the land of Uz which was East of the land of Palestine

B. Job was a family man

- a. He had 10 children - They celebrated birthdays together
- b. 7 sons + 3 daughters -- children were listed first above all his possessions
- c. Close family - righteous before God

C. Rich man

- a. Richest of all of East - Job 1:3 "this man was the greatest of all the men of the east."
- b. Today he would be a billionaire

D. Honorable man

- a. Job 29:7-9 --- every man honored him
- b. Held in high honor - gave ear to him

E. Great Character

- a. Feared God - Job 1:1 ESV "blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil"
- b. Turned away from evil
- c. God blessed him

F. He thought these things would continue. He did not know that he would be destroyed!!

II. HOW WAS JOB DESTROYED?

A. Job 1:6 "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them."

- 1. Angels Rev. 12:10 - Zech. 3:1-2
- 2. Sons of God came to give an account of themselves
- 3. Satan also came among them - Satan has access to the ear of God
- 4. God asked Satan "From where do you come?" Job 1:7 NKJV
- 5. Going to and fro in the earth - I've got them all under my control
- 6. Satan still does this today - 1 Pet. 5:8 NKJV "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

B. Have you considered Job - 1:8-10

- 1. None like him
- 2. Satan knew Job well - He knew his name and all about him. He could not deny his godliness. So he tried to discredit him and his motives in serving God.

3. Satan said: But you have built a hedge around him - you have bribed him by blessing him - if you took these things away from him he would curse you.
4. Do we have to be paid to serve God?
 - a. Would we turn our backs on God if we had problems like Job did?
 - b. Some people turn against God if someone looks at them a little different.
5. God said - all right -I'll let you test him but don't you touch him - Job 1:11-12

C. He was destroyed - Job. 1:13-19

1. Satan killed all the servants except 4 and they brought the horrible message
2. Oxen and Donkeys - stolen by Sabbeans
3. Sheep - fire of God is fallen from heaven
4. Camels - Chaldeans have stolen them
5. Children - Great whirlwind (tornado) - house fell - all 10 killed

D. Job's reaction

1. When you go from the Richest man in the East to being a Pauper a Royal Robe is out of place.
2. He rent his robe - shaved his head - fell down upon Ground
3. "And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21
 - a. He thought God had taken away
 - b. Really Satan had taken away, but God allowed it.
4. "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job 1:22

E. Who Won ROUND ONE?

1. God Won? The battle was between God and Satan. Job was in between.
2. That's where we are. We are between God and Satan. Who is going to win the battle in our case?

F. Scene goes back to heaven. Job 2:1-6

1. Satan where have you been? Going to and fro in the earth.
2. Have you considered my servant Job? -
 - a. Satan had lost round one - but he wouldn't admit it.
 - b. Satan acted like nothing had happened.
 - c. If you touch his skin he will curse you to your face.
3. All right - you can touch his skin but don't you kill him!

G. Satan Touched Job

1. Boils - one beside another - over his body - from his head to his feet
 - a. Very painful
 - b. Could not stand or walk without pain
 - c. Could not lay down without pain
 - d. He was itching, he had running sores, he had shortness of breath, his eyes were dark, his skin was black and blue, he had a fever.
2. Job's wife adds to his torment - Satan perhaps left her alive that she might be able to inflict further misery upon Job.
3. His wife said: "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God and die." Job 2:9

III. HOW WAS JOB TRIED IN THE FIRE?

- A. Deprived of his physical possessions
 - 1. Worked hard for his possessions - faithful in his stewardship
 - 2. He was a millionaire or maybe a billionaire
 - 3. Man of great riches one minute - then the next minute he was a poor deprived pauper.
 - 4. Richest man of all the East and now he is in an ash heap scraping himself with a piece of potsherd. = broken piece of pottery

- B. Deprived of his high standing
 - 1. One of the most respected men in the community.
 - 2. Then the next day was the object of their ridicule and jokes.
 - 3. No one wanted to be close to him.
 - 4. His only companions were the dogs and the outcast of society.

- C. Spurned and scorned by his family and his former acquaintances
 - 1. Even my brothers and sisters don't want to be around me.
 - 2. My wife doesn't want to be around me.
 - 3. Household servants wouldn't have anything to do with him.
 - 4. They Spit upon me, they gnash upon me, they beat me,
 - 5. Friends were attacking by accusing him of sin.

D. Suffered the loss of his own children

1. Horrible terrible torture with the loss of his children
2. Lost all 10 children at the same time. - Can't imagine the grief, heartache

E. Suffered the loss of his health

1. Flesh was full of boils:
 - a. My flesh is clothed with worms - maggots
 - b. Rising breaks out - covered from head to toe. Itching
 - c. Face is red from crying - Job 16:16 ASV "My face is red with weeping, And on my eyelids is the shadow of death;"
 - d. Nothing but Skin and bones - Job 19:20 NKJV "My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh," ESV "My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh,"
 - e. Have unbearable pain - Job 30:17 ASV "In the night season my bones are pierced in me, And the pains that gnaw me take no rest."
 - f. Ran a constant fever - Job 30:30 NKJV "My skin grows black and falls from me; My bones burn with fever."

F. Job suffered the urging of his wife that he renounce God and die

1. His wife: lost 10 children too, all her possessions too - she would have rather suffered than her beloved husband
2. She said: Job, how can you take this? You have lived righteously and yet God is destroying you. Why don't you curse God and commit suicide.
3. Satan couldn't kill Job, but if he could get his wife to talk him into committing suicide then he would accomplish the same thing.

G. Falsely accused by his three friends

1. Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar
2. They meant well - at first
3. When they first came they didn't even recognize him. Sat with him 7 days in silence
4. Job spoke first
 - a. Cursed the day in which he was born.
 - b. Wished to die -
 - c. Lord, Why do you hedge me in? Why don't you let me die.
5. These friends turned on Job and said that every person who suffers is suffering because of sin. They even came to hate Job. Even falsely accused him: mistreating orphans, trusted in riches, stole other people houses.
6. Job 16:1-2 NKJV "Then Job answered and said: I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters are you all!"

H. Suffering because of his righteousness

1. He didn't know why he was suffering.
2. He thought it was because of some problem that he had or God's hatred for him. Something that he did not know about.

I. He thought God was inflicting this great pain upon him

1. Thought God had abandoned him and was even trying to kill him.
2. Satan destroyed Job in such a way as to leave the impression that God had done it.

3. One of the Servants said: "The Fire of God" came down and destroyed
4. Job Thought: "Why is God doing this?" Why has Jehovah taken away. He gives and he takes back.
5. It wasn't God at all
 - a. Job 6:4 Shooting me with his poison arrows
 - b. Job 9:17 inflicting me with wounds without cause
 - c. Job 13:24 hiding his face from me and counting me as an enemy
 - d. Job 16:12 Giving me a body slam by the neck
 - e. Job 19:9 walling me up and depriving me of death and of my crown

Conclusion

1. "Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11
2. Job had courage, determination, stability and patience.
3. When all was lost Job remained firm in his stand for God.
4. How often do men remain steadfast today when trials come? They often forget their pledge when faced with difficulties in life.
5. Job was a remarkable man. He is described as "The greatest of all the men of the east."
Job 1:3
6. In the lesson tonight we will look at why Job was so longsuffering and lessons we can learn from this patience of Job.

Part 2

Introduction

1. Aim: To show why Job was a man of patience.
2. The story of Job is about a man who had suffered the loss of everything.
 - a. He lost his 10 children
 - b. He lost all of his material possessions
 - c. He lost his health
 - d. He lost the support of his wife.
3. But he was still trusting in God and is described as a man of Patience.
4. James 5:11 "Ye have heard of the patience of Job,"

Discussion

- I. **HOW WAS JOB SO LONGSUFFERING?** In all of this how could he endure?
 - A. Job is longsuffering because he has been a faithful servant of the Lord all along
 1. Abraham endured later on because he had developed his faith back here and he kept developing it and he learned to trust God back here.
 - a. When told to leave he could do it.
 - b. When told to offer his son he could do it.
 - c. He had learned to trust God back here.
 2. That's the way it is with Job
 - a. He had long learned to trust God.
 - b. He did not understand what was happening to him.
 - c. He said even if God kills me I will come forth as Gold.
 - d. When you put gold in the fire it comes out as pure gold.
 - e. He had been gold all along.

3. Don't wait until the trials come upon you to develop your faith in God.

a. Develop that faith all along in life.

b. Trust Him

B. Job had been a faithful servant of his mind.

1. "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?" 31:1

2. If I hadn't done that then I would deserve all this evil I have received.

3. If I laid in wait at my neighbors house and waited till he went to work so I could go in and be with his wife. I would deserve what I got.

C. Job Trusted in God and not in his wealth

1. The friends said: you leaned upon your house Job. Your Gold and silver.

2. If I have made gold my hope then I deserve what I have gotten. But I have not done it. I have not placed faith in riches.

3. He was a faithful steward of these things.

4. He helped everybody

5. He challenged his servants to name anyone that he has not helped with his money and possessions. Can they name anyone?

6. Orphans grew up with me as my own children.

7. Job had been a man of high ethics and generosity in dealing with his fellow man.

D. Job had a strong faith in the resurrection

1. There is hope of a tree if it is near the water
2. Job said if I die and my body goes to the grave then God shall call me when his wrath against me is past.
3. He thought God was angry with him.
4. It was really Satan who was doing it.
5. God is going to call my name in the last day.
6. I'm going to come forth out of the grave.
7. He looked for a better place.
8. That gave him steadfastness and longsuffering.

E. He had determined to maintain his integrity before God.

1. Even though God kills me I will not deny him.
2. Job 13:15-19 v. 15 "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him."
3. If you turn your back on God then you turn your back on the only one who can help you.

II. LESSONS ABOUT THE PATIENCE OF JOB

- A. The most trying of all circumstances befalls Job.
1. When he receives word that his possessions had been destroyed or taken away he is sitting (1:14-17)
 2. But after hearing the tragic news concerning the loss of all ten of his precious children (1:18-19), he can no longer overcome his grief so he 1:20-21 "Arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshiped, and said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."
- B. All that he had is taken from him.
1. To many, this would be more than one could bear.
 2. His mourning is only natural and right. He would have been more than a man had he taken his troubles without pain.
 3. Like Abraham, who was called upon to take the life of the promised son Isaac, Job recognizes God's right to take away that which he has so graciously given.
 - a. Jehovah gave him these blessings and it is Jehovah who has every right to take them away.
 - b. All we have is on loan from God.
 - c. We are simply stewards of that which God has so graciously given us.
 4. Could we suffer the loss of all our earthly possessions and still maintain our allegiance to God?

C. Job reaches for God to be his help in time of trouble.

1. His attitude is: I had no earthly possessions when I came into the world, I cannot have less going out of it.
2. He is certainly thankful for the period of time he was allowed to have use of such wonderful gifts.
3. 1 Tim. 6:7-8 "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

D. In his tragedy he is able to see his own littleness.

1. Few have this trait today.
2. Job shows he served God of his own free will and not on account of the benefits which he received from God.
3. How do you serve God?

E. His PATIENCE is seen when his wife tries to get him to renounce God.

1. His response is "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh."
2. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips'' (2:10-11).

F. Ecl. 7:8-9 It takes patience to endure wrong. "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."

- G. James 5:11 Job has been known in history as a man of patience.
1. His acquaintances and even family could not understand his diligence and perseverance (30:1-14; 19:13-19).
 2. Luke 21:19 "In your patience possess ye your souls"
 3. Rom 2:7 "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life."
 4. Rom. 5:3-4 "...But we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope"

CONCLUSION

1. Job was blessed after his trials and he came forth as Gold.
 - a. God reversed his situation
 - b. He doubled everything that he had.
 - (1) 14,000 sheep
 - (2) 6,000 camels
 - (3) 1,000 yoke of oxen
 - (4) 1,000 she asses.
 - (5) 10 more children
 - c. He had 10 already with the Lord. They were still living. If He had given him 20 more children then it would have meant that the first 10 were annihilated like the animals. There were 10 already with God and he gave him 10 more.
 - d. He blessed him with another 140 years of life. Did he double his life? If so he was 70 when he began his suffering.

2. The Longsuffering of Job is an example to help us develop patience and longsuffering for life on this earth. When we have been tried will we come forth as Gold?
3. WHAT IS THE LESSON FOR US TODAY?
 - a. Is it that if we remain faithful during times of trial, God will give us great wealth?
No. Many faithful Christians have died without being blessed as Job was.
 - b. Key verse: JOB 13:15 "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him..."
 - c. This is the kind of faith God wants us to have. Not the kind that follows God when we understand the reasoning behind the suffering, but one who trusts in God whether we understand why things are like they are or not.
 - d. Too many fail the test when something happens to them they do not understand. Because they can see no purpose in it, do not know why it is happening, they quit trusting God.
 - e. Job did not understand why he suffered. This experience brought him to a greater understanding of the omnipotence and greatness of God.
 - f. When he came face to face with the greatness of God, he no longer mentioned any of his problems. He did not plead for relief or understanding of his problems. Instead, he confessed his own weakness and ignorance.
 - g. Job 42:2 NKJV "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You."
4. THE LESSON IS THAT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE GREATNESS OF GOD.
 - a. Know His power, greatness and wisdom.
 - b. We may not understand why God allows certain things, either in our lives or in the lives of others, but we don't have to understand.

- c. God does understand what He is doing with His people and that is all that matters.
- d. Job suffered to a degree that is hard to imagine.
- e. He provides a picture or shadow of: 2 Cor. 4:17 "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"
- f. We are not told how, but we are told: Rom. 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

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