



STORY

Job's Trial and Patience - Job 1, 2:1-10, 19:25-27; 38:1-3; 40:1-5; 42:1-6; 42:10-17 You may want to bring in some selected verses from chapters 38-41.

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, You suffered the agonies of body and soul to redeem me, a lost and condemned sinner. Thank you for this redemption. Help me to bear with patience whatever afflictions You send me and help me to believe that You are only permitting them only for my own spiritual good. Help me look to You and Your Word again and again for strength in all the trials and temptations of my life. Guide me with Your Spirit in preparing this lesson to show this truth to the children entrusted to my care. Lord hear me for the sake of Your innocent suffering and death. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Uz - probably that portion of the Arabian Desert east of Edom
sons of God - angels, called sons because they were created by God
potsherd - broken piece of pottery

OUTER AIM

Job trusted in God even in the midst of tremendous suffering.

INNER AIM

God taught Job that He was in control of Job's life in good times and in bad. We learn that God gives to us only what is for our best.

BACKGROUND

The first lesson on Job entails three major portions:

- a. Job 1:1-5 repentance and confession
- b. Job 1:6-22 humble submission to God's will
- c. Job 2:1-10 genuine trust in the Triune God, as opposed to hypocrisy

The second lesson is Job's confident words of trust in His Redeemer:

Job 19:25-27

The third lesson describes God's rebuke of Job for questioning God's love for him. We hear of Job's repentance and of how Job's life ends after the trials and sufferings are all over:

Job 38:1-3; 40:1-5; 42:1-6; 42:10-17

Job 1:1-5

Job exemplifies a concerned Christian father by his actions after his children's celebrations. Job was concerned about their spiritual life and would have a burnt offering sacrificed for his children, thinking "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

His name meant "one ever returning to God." He found nothing in all the material possessions God had given to him (they were many - ten children, 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 1,000 oxen, 500 donkeys, a large number of servants, and a great reputation) which could make his spirit rich except a sorrow over sin, and a repentant faith in a forgiving God. He craved this kind of spirituality for his children also, thus the gathering of his family for regular purification ceremonies.

Job would be ready to pray with David that beautiful penitential Psalm 51, in which the believer relies on God's mercy and grace for the forgiveness of all his transgressions. He would be at the back of the temple with the publican, smiting his breast, eyes cast down, admitting no worthiness in himself.

Applications for Job 1:1-5:

- 1) Encourage children to set aside a daily heartfelt repentance time. Bedtime is an excellent time to discuss the day's shortcomings and sincere sorrow for wrong doings. Hymn 653 v. 2 is a good prayer, "Jesus Savior, wash away..."
- 2) Discuss the unburdening of the soul to a pastor, parent, teacher or Christian friend in times of grievous sins which really trouble the conscience.
- 3) Note the sons giving feasts in their homes and inviting their sisters-family love and concern shown.
- 4) Job offered a burnt offering for each of his children-generous giver, sparing nothing for the Lord-regularly-not just when he felt like it or when he had leftovers--(widow and her mite).

Job 1:6-22

Vs. 6 the sons of God - angels, because they were created by God and in contrast to Satan and his angels, who had forfeited the right to be called by that name.

came to present themselves-to report, amid reverent shouts of praise (Isaiah 6:3) how they had done God's commands (Psalm 103:20-21) and to ask what they were to do next.

Satan...means Adversary. Enemy of God and man - delighting in injuring and harming men in their body, inflicting temporal losses of every description (John 8:44), and ultimately leading them to unbelief and a place with him in "the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matt. 25:41)

Vs. 7 from going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it. Satan walks about-prowls about as a lion, seeking whom he may devour, bodily and spiritually (I Peter 5:8)

Vs. 8 My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth. The Lord gives Job the highest praise, a good example of a truly pious Christian Vs. 10-11 Satan wanted Job to look like a hypocrite. Day and night Satan is the accuser of God's people. Revelations 12:10, Zechariah 3:1. (He is also called the devil meaning slanderer.)

Vs. 12 The Lord allows Satan to afflict Job and all Christians for our soul's benefit. Note the limit to which God keeps Satan, mighty but not Almighty as is God.

Vs. 15 Sabeans...Arabian horde from Sheba, a country bordering the Red Sea.

Vs. 16 fire of God...a terrific lightening storm or a shower of brimstone

Vs. 17 Chaldeans...people from Chaldea (Babylonia) which was situated on both sides of the Euphrates River and bordered on the Persian Gulf.

Vs. 20 tore his robe and shaved his head...Oriental signs of deep grief and sorrow. He had sustained an

extraordinarily heavy loss in one day:

- 1) his oxen and mules; 2) his sheep; 3) his camels; 4) all his servants, farm laborers, shepherds, herdsmen, and by far the greatest loss
- 5) all of his children.

Vs. 21 Words of a truly meek Christian: "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." The Giver of all good gifts had a right to take from him everything that He had given him, a model of patient submission to the will of God.

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane is the supreme example of submission to God's Holy will. Review His earnest prayer before His Father's throne in full knowledge of the coming suffering, agony and tortuous death He was soon to undergo; yet, He prays "not My will but Thine be done."

Uncomplainingly Jesus suffered for all of us.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, please give me patience to accept all of the troubles, trials and tribulations that You allow to come my way. Give me strength through Your powerful Word to stand firm in my confidence and trust in You and Your Son, my Savior, Jesus. Help me to always remember that You permit these troubles to come to us Christians out of Your love for us, and that You will use them for our eternal good. Lead me to acknowledge my sins which so often bring troubles upon me. Wash me daily with Jesus' blood. Help me focus my heart upon the perfect peace and joy of the heavenly home You have promised us through Jesus. We ask this in our Savior's name. Amen.

PRESENTATION

1) Foremost in our prayers should be the words of Christ, "Thy will be done." Encourage the students to discuss the content of their prayers.

2) Discuss our frequent complaining attitude, despairing in adversity instead of praising God through it all. We accept the good from the Lord without question, why not the bad which we by nature deserve. Romans 5:3; James 1:2

3) Discuss Satan as a very real adversary, not some boogeyman out there to scare us. I Pet. 5:8

4) Explain the limits of Satan's powers. Show forth the omnipotence (unlimited power) of the Triune God. The Son of God on earth could even cast out demons (thousands at a time).

Luke 8:26-39 We can also resist the devil with faith in Christ. I Peter 5:9

Job 2:1-10

vs. 3 Have you considered my servant Job?... Have you observed how faithful he has remained in the great trial which has come upon him?

vs. 4 Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life...Satan would like to see Job suffer still more, he delights in harming man.

vs. 6 spare his life...In order to test Job's faith, the Lord permitted Satan to cause him great bodily suffering, but again He limited Satan's power.

vs. 7 painful boils...The disease was the worst form of leprosy, with horrible ulcers or boils and a swollen condition of the joints which would make him helpless. (Rupprecht pg. 142)

vs. 8 And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself...extreme itching from the festering sores so that he used this method to give himself some relief by scratching himself with a broken piece of pottery.

vs. 9 his wife said...To see his wife turn from him with blasphemy on her lips only added to Job's misery. (Luther's explanation to the Sixth Petition: "the world and our flesh may not deceive us nor lead us into misbelief, hopelessness, or any other shameful or sinful acts.")

vs. 10 shall we indeed accept good... Job reveals his strong love for God in rebuking his wife. A beautiful answer!

APPLICATION

1) Encourage some discussion on two-faced people, how they say one thing to someone and then turn around and do or say the opposite to someone else to look good in the eyes of all. Hypocrisy is detestable. So, too, here the devil tried to prove that Job spoke only good of the Lord when he had his health. How did Job prove the devil wrong?

2) Coming to church on a Sunday, singing praises, worshiping the Savior for an hour and then living like the rest of the world shows no genuineness of heart.

3) Job's wife tried to get him to commit blasphemy. Are we like her when our loved ones have problems and we give ungodly advice instead of Scriptural counsel? Our example to those in need or to those younger than we should be of godly concern to us. "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depths of the sea." Matt.18:6

4) The New Testament lesson of Ananias and Sapphira brings home with fearful power the dangerous game of playing the hypocrite. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked."

5) The Lord does permit some trials, troubles and temptations to come to each of us (lengthy sickness, father loses job, parents become sick, death of a loved one, friends turn against us, school work is very difficult.) But God won't tempt us beyond what we are able to bear. He will make a way to escape. I Corinthians 10:13 When these troubles come to us, God wants us to remain firm in our faith and to not turn away from Him. God cares for us. In His love He will give us only that which is best for us, even though at times it may seem that God does not love us. We never need to be afraid or worried that God will forget about us or let our troubles overcome us. II Corinthians 12:10

Job 19:25-27

Job in his anguish, pain, sorrow and grief yet yearns, hungers and thirsts after the righteousness of His God. He has no righteousness of his own with which to stand before His God. In confident faith He cries out: "I know that my Redeemer lives!" His belief that he shall see God face to face surprises many who believe that the Judeo-Christian religion was an evolutionary (progressive) teaching. How could Job who lived during the days of Abraham be so clear on such a teaching as the resurrection? Job's desire was to be clothed with Christ; his Redeemer here on earth; but even more than that, to be clothed with his Savior for an eternity. "How my heart yearns within me!"

Job 38:1-3; 40:1-5; 42:1-6

After making this remarkable confession, Job, too, began to complain and murmur about his lot in life. He felt he was being treated unfairly and cruelly by God and that he did not deserve it. God then comes to Job by speaking to him out of a whirlwind. He asked Job why he questioned HIS rulership of his life.

Job 38-41

Job speaks of God's wonderful, merciful works by means of confession of his unworthiness "Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth...Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know...I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Job 42:10-17

The LORD graciously restores to Job far more than was taken away from him. 14,000 sheep; 6,000 camels; 1,000 yoke of oxen; 1,000 female donkeys. He had seven more sons and three more daughters, the most beautiful of all the land. What a merciful God we have.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Romans 8:28a - "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God."

Middle

Romans 12:12 - "Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer."

James 1:2 - "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials."

Upper

Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

HYMN CHOICES

I Know that My Redeemer Lives - TLH #200

If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee - TLH #518

What God Ordains is Always Good - TLH #521