

Series: Lessons from Job

Week 1: Choosing Faith in the midst of suffering

“Adversity does not build character, it reveals it.” - James Lane Allen

Why would the God who created us allow so much suffering?

Question(s): How will you respond when your world caves in?

How can we choose faith in those times?

3 THINGS FAITH WILL NOT DO FOR US

1. It will not ELIMINATE the pain.

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” Job 1:21

His wife said to him, “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die! Job 2:9

“Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” Job 2:10

2. It will not STOP the questions.

Psalm 13

¹ How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts

and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

3. It will not create a LOGICAL reason for your suffering.

Job 1:7

⁷ The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

Job 1:8

⁸ Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

3 things Faith WILL do for us

1. It will remind you that GOD is in control.

2. It's a PRECIOUS GIFT to God.

Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. ⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Hebrews 13:8

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

3. It will bring you CLOSER to God.

“You can't drown your sorrows; they always float to the surface.” - Unknown

‘Adversity introduces a man to himself.’ - Unknown

“Adversity is like a strong wind. It tears away from us all but the things that cannot be torn, so that we see ourselves as we really are.” - Arthur Golden