

## Sunday Morning Message

June 11, 2023

Title – *Why Is This Happening to Me?*

Text – Job 23 entire chapter; Job 1:1 – 2:10; 42:10 - 17

Congregational Reading – Job 23:1 - 10

### Introduction

In our text today we see Job in the middle of the conversation that he was having with his three friends that had come to “comfort” him after he had lost everything. In this chapter (23), Job is trying to wrap his head around what God was doing to Him and why. He concludes in verse ten:

*"10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10)*

Illustrate – The reference here is to the purification process of metals, like gold. When a metal is heated up and liquified, the impurities will rise to the top where they can then be removed. The metal that remains is purer.

In my first year of Bible college, I worked at Texas Die Cast, which was a company that molded aluminum parts. I was a machine operator. My job was to pour molten aluminum into this machine that would force that 1200-degree metal into a die, and when the die opened, the now cooled, hardened, and formed part would be extracted. Part of my job included skimming off the impurities that would rise to the top in that vat of molten aluminum.

Read through the rest of the chapter (vs. 11 – 17).

Here is what Job is trying to figure out in this passage: Why Is This Happening to Me? He is working through the trial, and he is examining his life, his relationship with God and others, and he is trying to see what God is doing through this trial. His “friends” are sure that what Job is experiencing is the direct result of some secret sin that he has kept hidden from them but apparently not hidden from God, which was not true. By God’s own testimony, Job was a perfect and upright man who feared God and eschewed evil (Job 1:1), meaning that he put evil far from him. When God stated that Job was perfect, He was not saying that Job was sinless, but rather that he was spiritually mature and a man that yielded his life to the will of God.

Job has no idea why God was allowing this horrible trial to come his way, but he did know that God was doing something through it.

In the New Testament Book of James, God said this:

*"2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:2-4)*

Paul wrote:

*"28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)*

Though we may not completely see why God is doing what He is doing in our lives, we must trust that God is doing something and that He knows what He is doing.

Let's go back to the beginning of the story and see if we can figure out why God allows any of us to go through trials and hardships in life.

### **I. The Character of Job Revealed (1:1 – 5)**

- He was perfect and upright. He feared God and eschewed evil (רָדַף from רָסַד – *sûr* – put away or remove). He wasn't sinless, but he loved God and lived his life in submission to God's will.

Do you put away evil from you, or do you play with it, and even invite into your home and life?

- He was mightily blessed of God. He had a family and great wealth.
- He was a spiritual leader of his family, even offering sacrifices on their behalf, just in case they had sinned against God.

### **II. The Conversation Between Satan and God Regarding Job (1:6 -12)**

Notice that it was God who introduced the subject of Job to Satan. Satan's position is that Job's love for God was based solely upon the blessings that God had given Job, and if God were to allow those blessings to be removed, Job would curse God instead of praise Him.

The Bible says about Satan:

*"8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8)*

*"10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:10-12)*

*"7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)*

According to the Bible, Satan is:

- Our adversary
- The accuser of the brethren
- The father of lies
- The wicked one
- The devourer
- He wants to sift you like wheat
- He hates God
- He hates you
- He is not omnipotent, omniscient, or omnipresent
- He is not like God

### III. The Catastrophe of Job - Part One (1:13 – 19)

We need to remember that Job is completely unaware of the conversation that God had with Satan. This attack caught him completely by surprise and for no apparent reason. Notice the swiftness of each of these attacks – “while he was yet speaking” – the attacks came simultaneously, and the reports of the attacks came one right after the other. Satan did not wait or waste a second after being given permission by God.

I wonder if something is being discussed right now by God or Satan about me. Or about you. Possibly, there is a great trial in the works for me, or for you. Will you be ready? Will I be ready? I guess, we would have to be ready to some degree, because God would not allow it otherwise:

*"13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

It is critical for us to understand that Satan had to get permission to act against Job, and he will have to be permitted to act against any of us as well. Satan must get past God to get to you. He is on a leash, and he will only be allowed to do what God permits, and God will only permit it if something good could come out of it.

The trials that come our way will be the same types of trials that came Job’s way. They will be family trials, financial trials, or trials involving physical problems, which we will see regarding Job, in chapter two.

#### IV. The Consistency of His Character (1:20 – 22)

- He did not waver.
- He didn't quit.
- He didn't run.
- He didn't curse God.

*"10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." (Proverbs 24:10)*

You and I need to be as strong as we can be spiritually so that when the attacks come, we will also maintain our testimony and come through the trial with our faith intact.

#### V. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference Between God and Satan (2:1 – 6)

Satan assumed that though the loss of family and finances did not cause Job to curse God, surely a physical attack in his health would do the trick. Some people can endure many types of heartache, but they cannot endure pain.

#### VI. The Calamity Surrounding Job's Health (2:7 – 8)

Don't ever say, "It can't get any worse than this." Job's situation became far worse than it was in chapter one.

I believe what Job endured was perhaps the most miserable type of sickness a person could get. Eventually, the sores that Job had bred worms:

*"5 My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome." (Job 7:5)*

#### VII. Job's "Comforters" (vs. 9 – 13)

Here we learn that Job's wife's faith was not as strong as Job's. Don't be too hard on Mrs. Job though. Remember, she just lost all her children, and possibly grandchildren also.

Job's three friends started out as good comforters. Here in chapter two, they just sit with Job and don't say a word. However, in future chapter, we learn that these friends were clueless as to what Job was going through and why. As the story unfolds in the remainder of the Book of Job, we discover that they knew very little about the Lord and why he had allowed what happened to Job. In their minds, with their limited understanding of God or Job, they assumed that his trial was due to some secret and horrible sin. To be sure, Job was a sinner, just like the rest of us, but his trial had nothing to do with some punishment that God was dumping on him for some sinister act that he had committed. Sometimes God does chastise and correct us, but not all trials are the result of our sins.

#### Conclusion

All of us will endure the hardships of trials, but to experience suffering for no apparent reason can be especially difficult. Job did nothing to deserve the treatment that he was receiving at the hand of Satan, but God would use Job's suffering to accomplish a few wonderful things:

1. **To Prove You** - First, He would prove to Satan that there are some men who will retain their integrity, even under the most difficult of circumstances (Job 2:3; 9)

Illustrate – A test pilot will put a plane through tremendous stress and strain, not because he is trying to destroy the plane, but because he is proving that the plane can endure those hardships and still fly and land safely.

2. **To Purify You** - Second, though Job was a good man, even a great man when compared among men, this trial would make him a still better man. I believe Job had a better understanding of the greatness of his Creator and a better grasp of his own frail humanity because of this ordeal.

*"10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10)*

*"4 Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer." (Proverbs 25:4)*

*"6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" (1 Peter 1:6-7)*

*"2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." (John 15:2)*

*"5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ... 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:5-7, 11)*

3. **To Present You to the World Around You** - But perhaps the greatest thing that God would reveal to us through Job's trial, is that we can trust God. He won't allow us to go through something that is greater than our ability to glorify Him through. He loves us. He doesn't punish, but He does correct us at times through the trials and sufferings of life. Sometimes the trials are a direct result of sin, but they are often

just God's way of bringing us to the next level of faith. And if we will allow God to have His way in our lives, we too can come forth as gold; better servants, and better sons: more equipped to represent Him as the ambassadors of His glorious gospel. We must remember that God is showing us off to the world around us. When we go through difficult situations with our faith intact, we show the world that God is real, and the Christ has truly saved us and regenerated us and transformed us into new creatures in Him.

If you are going through a trial right now, here is what you should do:

- Face the trial head on, embrace it.
- Run to God, not away from Him.
- Try to figure out what God is trying to do through the trial. Is He trying to correct you in some way? Is He bringing you to another level spiritually? Is He using you to be an example to others?
- Don't blame God, glorify God. Make Him look good through the trial.
- Learn from the trial – The trial will teach you some things about yourself, some things about other people' some things about God.

By the way, the good news is that after Job's trial was finished, God restored to Job all that He had lost (Job 42:10 – 17).

It all turned out good for Job in the end, but even if it didn't as far as the rest of Job's earthly life was concerned, God is still good. God does what He does for His reasons, and as His children, we just need to understand that God knows what is best. And in the end, we know that if we are His children, eventually, we will be removed from this sin-cursed earth and transported up to Heaven, into His presence, where there will be no trials – no sicknesses, no tragedies, and no sin.