

WHAT? AGAIN? HOW MUCH MORE?

Text: Job 2.1–13

Theme: God will work all things for His glory, even our suffering

Would you pray with me?

O Lord of Your Word,
 make Your Word a swift Word,
 passing from our ears to our hearts,
 from our hearts to our lips and our conversations;
 so that, as the rain goes out and does not return empty,
 so neither may Your Word,
 but have it accomplish that for which it is given. Amen.

PRELUDE – What’s in the heart comes out

- the fruit reveals the root, we could say
- before we get to Job 2, consider this when it comes to forms of pride

Boasting: based upon the pride of success

- this form of pride says, “Look at me! I deserve this attention because I’m the best!”
- very accustomed to this from world of sports, especially this fall in football
- from end zone celebrations to bizarre antics after just making a first down
- pride fuels it all, but another form of pride can show itself too

Self-pity: based upon the pride of suffering

- this form of pride says, “Look at me! I deserve attention because no one’s suffered like me.”
- doesn’t seem like pride, but it is: you are at the center of this “woe is me” attitude
- having people show pity is one thing; demanding they show it is quite another
- pride fuels this as well

I know this latter form of pride all too well

- mass produced it as a young child
- if I didn’t get my way, I wouldn’t scream or shout at anyone
- I’d quietly sneak off to my room, close the door and have a good pout
- I’d make them pay by my withdrawal and silence
- then, when they’d finally figure out something was wrong, the self-pity would turn on
- my sister and I had a little ditty we’d even sing, when 6 or 7 yrs old:
 Nobody loves me,
 Nobody likes me,
 Guess I’ll go eat worms.
- it goes on, but you get the point

I earned my Masters degree in pouting by time I was 13

- soon followed by a PhD in self-pity
- it’s why it’s easy to spot in others: I had it down

Thankfully, God used others, His Spirit & Word to temper this within me

- not saying completely gone, but now know how to put it to death in me

Needless to say, Job had neither of these in his heart

- in all his success, he continued to look with thankfulness to God
- his concern was for holiness, even in his children
- and then, when the suffering came, as we saw last week, he did not turn to self-pity

Rather, Job had God uppermost in his heart

- he worshipped God, blessed His name
- instead, he began to teach us his song:
- Our good and sovereign God is glorified through the reality of human suffering as we behold Jesus Christ
- he remained blameless, upright, fearing God and turning from evil
- **“In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrong”**
- this does not mean that Job wasn’t hurting or suffering
- but it does mean his gaze stayed fixed upon God

But will it last?

- you and I know what’s coming; it’s a familiar story
- but Job does not; not aware of what’s gone on and will go on in heaven
- Satan thinks he’s smarter than Job, and even smarter than God
- how will Job respond if more comes his way

[read Job 2.1–6]

This is like a song we sing, and it’s the...

I. SAME SONG, SECOND VERSE

- scene goes back to heaven’s court room
- sons of God reporting once again & seems a day like any other day
- the Satan returns, probably with sneer on face
- oh, Job didn’t fold at first terrible round of tragedies and suffering
- but Satan is convinced he will

Once again, we see...

1. SATAN’S SLANDER

- Satan is quite confident, isn’t he?
- he didn’t learn the first time, but he’s willing to try again
- he simply cannot believe that Job would keep on believing if “everything” but life taken from him
- this is the slander against God: Satan can’t believe God does all things for His glory
- yet God means to grow Job’s fear, faith and satisfaction in Him alone thru many means, even or especially in suffering
- God is sovereign over all things, even our suffering
- this is what book of Job is all about: this world & all that goes on in it — not about us... it’s about God
- God says, v. 3: **although you incited Me against him to destroy him...”**
- this is God saying this; God did this, His hand was in Job’s suffering
- why? how can this be, that God would bring suffering on Job?
- because Job is God’s friend & God will get glory from this
- God is certain of Job’s heart & character
- so, like cheese on a mousetrap of God’s sovereignty and delight, He tests Satan again...have you considered Job?

- and Satan doesn't learn; he takes and asks for more: Job's health & well-being
- Satan means to not only prove Job a pragmatic prosperity gospel believer
- he means to slander God's name, reputation and glory through Job
- yet, God knows, that even in disfigurement and excruciatingly great pain, He will prove sovereign over all
- and so, once again, Satan granted permission by God to afflict Job
- last mention of Satan in entire book of Job
- proves to be a really bit player in God's theater of sovereign joy
- shows us that Satan is no rival to God; he's not worthy of bearing that title
- he is simply an instrument that God tolerates for a time

Next, we look at...

2. JOB'S SUFFERING

• **read 2.7–9**

- loathsome sores: unclear exactly what these are or what disease might be
- awful in pain – Job scrapes with broken pottery to try to ease discomfort
- disfiguring as well, so much so that Job is relegated to town's dung heap or dump
- no one can bear to see him, and even though Law not given about uncleanness, he was definitely all that
- bad enough that he loses all his property and possessions
- painful enough that he loses his ten children causing his heart to break
- bad enough, even, that he loses his health
- but note v. 9: now his wife, who no doubt was hurting from previous disasters, wants him to just end it
- last one left to bring him any comfort & she just wants him to end it: curse God & die!
- sadly, you can see her heart here: she overvalues too many things over God Himself
- so, the last one who can truly love & comfort Job, turns against him
- little does Job know, but his suffering isn't done yet
- he may have friends who come to him and offer him the blessed gift of silent presence
- but they won't remain silent forever
- and when they speak, Job's suffering continues yet again

We can also see...

3. GOD'S SOVEREIGN HAND

• **read 2.10**

- once again, I'll ask this: do you understand that God is sovereign over all things?
- do you know that God is sovereign IN all things?
- if so, you may just respond like Job when hardship, pain, heartache and suffering come your way
- but if not, you will not be like Job
- you will have wasted your prosperity and blessing God has poured out on you
- you won't be thankful in your heart for them; somehow, you'll claim them as your own
- this will be the pride of a boastful heart
- or, you may just do what Job's wife wanted him to do: turn to self-pity and pouting
- curse God, be as good as dead, give up on God, because it's apparent He's given up on you
- and yet, God's hand is in this for good and glory

As we continue this song, we come to the...

II. REFRAIN OF GLORY

- what you see here is that all this isn't really about Job; it's about God & His glory
- Job is not lost in a maze of the fear of man
- rather, he fears God and worships Him no matter what comes his way
- Job knows God is sovereign and is determined to act like it
- you and I know God is sovereign and we should act like it

1. Job did not sin

- in all this, Job did not sin with his lips
- some, cynically think: oh sure, but in his heart...
- no, for remember, what's in the heart comes out, especially in times like these for Job
- no, what was in his heart was nothing but adoration, gratefulness and deep satisfaction in his sovereign God
- Job speaks well of Him; he cannot do otherwise

2. God did not sin

- some wonder, even out loud: did God sin in this act? allowing Satan to do these horrible things to Job?
- well, first off, let me just say that God cannot and will not ever do any moral evil
- were He to do so, He would not be God
- but God does do things that bring us, His people, immediate trouble
- not evil, but trouble
- so, who did sin here? surely somebody sinned?
- sounds like Jesus' disciples in John 9, when they came across a man, blind from birth
- "Who sinned? This man or his parents?"
- Jesus: "Neither this man or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him"
- it wasn't about the man, his parents, the synagogue rulers or even the disciples
- it was about God displaying His glory and those, given faith, who would be satisfied in God alone
- our trouble so often becomes about our pride — it's all about us! I'm the whole story
- we need to repent of that attitude and right quick
- it's not about us, it's about God, His free sovereign grace and glory

Close with a quote that will help us...

CONCLUSION — Sing the Song of Our Sovereign Savior

Allow me to end with a quote from Andrew Murray on his trials and sufferings

- may we find his words to be our own

First, God brought me here. It is by His will I am in this straight place, and in that fact I will rest. Next, He will keep me here in His love and give me grace to behave as His child. Then He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow. Last, in His good time, He can bring me out again, how and when He knows.

I am here by His appointment.

I am here in His keeping.

I am here under His training.

I am here for His time.

Let's consider how Job points us to Christ Jesus

- imagine you are one of the two on road to Emmaus
- you think your messiah is dead and gone
- but a man shows up on your walk home and begins to speak
- **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**
- Job was part of this: pointing to Christ
- Job was blameless; Jesus would be far more so
- Job was upright; Jesus was the very righteousness of God here on earth
- Job was appointed for suffering; Jesus was appointed to suffer as well; suffer for us all
- Job, even though blameless, was not without sin; Jesus was fully man yet completely without sin
- Job, though he did not die from these initial afflictions, would still die later on
- Jesus' life was a life spent in order to die; it was His sole purpose for coming to earth: that He might die in our place

We can look to Job and see a great example to emulate

- but we must never let our eyes stop just at Job
- we must look to Jesus Christ, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame
- it is only by trusting Jesus that we can count it all joy when we meet with trials of various kinds, knowing that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness
- it is only in Jesus that, even though grieved by various trials, though for a little while, will have the genuineness of our faith tested which will result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ