

The Gospel According to Job

Hymns from "Favorite Hymns of Grace."

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Hymns of Worship

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Devotional Summary: "The Gospel According to Job"

Job 1:1 (NKJV) *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.*

Job was an exceptionally good man. He was the poster boy of what we would consider a "good" Christian.

"blameless" - straight forward or honest.

"upright" - ethically straight or moral.

"feared God" - humble.

"shunned evil" - resisted temptation

Job 1:8-9 (NKJV) *Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" 9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"*

Job had 10 children, 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys (Job 1:2-3).

We must note that God brought up Job's name to Satan! What a "sea change" God initiated in Job's life! The name of God used here is "Yahweh" - the intimate, relational name of God used in Gen. 2 when God created man and Ex. 3:15 - Moses at the burning bush and Ex. 19 - the Sinai covenant (as opposed to "Elohim" - the Almighty in Gen. 1).

Job 27:2-6 (NKJV) [Job speaking] *"As God lives, who has taken away my justice, And the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, 3 As long as my breath is in me, And the breath of God in my nostrils, 4 My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit. 5 Far be it from me That I should say you are right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. 6 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live."*

Job accuses God of injustice (sound familiar?) and justifies himself - he is righteous in his own eyes! See also, 9:21-24, 12:4, 13:15.

Job 32:1-2 (NKJV) *So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. 2 Then the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than*

God.

Elihu - the prophet in the line of Elijah and Elisha indignant because Job had "justified himself rather than God." A great prophet because he introduces God in 36:6 - chap. 37.

Job 42:6-8 (NKJV) *Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: 7 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me: 8 Would you indeed annul My judgment? **Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?**"*

The ultimate question from the ultimate God! God does not just condemn Job in his self-righteousness, He does not abandon Job to his arrogance, He does business with him. God is going somewhere with all this. God always has our higher good as His object in dealing with us. It behoves us to get our head up in our dealings with Him! Man up! Woman up! Look full on the Perfection and the Infinite Power and the raw, unadulterated Love of God and do business with Him! He waits to talk with you without the facade of your self-reliance and pride.

Job 42:5-6 (NKJV) *"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore I abhor myself, And **repent** in dust and ashes."*

Repent: turn around, change directions diametrically. You must be born again, have a new birth, a different birth - a birth from above!

John 3:3, 6 (NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again [or, "born from above"], he cannot see the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

When Job encountered God one-on-one, creature to Creator, face to face, he was forever changed! Here we can make a parallel with the difference between a blind man's understanding of color and one who sees color for himself. Until we are born from above, until we are created anew - a new creature - we do not have the capacity to "see" how hopelessly lost we are without our Savior, Jesus Christ.

2Co 5:17 (KJV) *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Ga 6:15 (KJV) *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.*

There is a story about Peter in the New Testament from which we can draw a parallel with our lesson from Job:

Matthew 14:26-32 (NKJV) *And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught*

him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

The bold and courageous Peter who got out of the boat was not the same Peter who got back in! In the face of his fear and terror of his circumstances he encountered a facet of his utter and complete dependence on Christ Jesus that he had not considered before.

Each of us must consider our position before our Creator. Are we giving our faith in God lip service all the while depending on ourselves for getting through life. In the challenges of life, do we embrace God first and foremost or wait until we have exhausted our own efforts and all other options first. Sounds a bit like Job doesn't it? You can justify yourself, we humans are good at it. But, by God's loving mercy, life is full of trials and tribulations all of which are there to bring us to the feet of Jesus with total dependence on His mercy - in humble recognition of His saving Grace - in the face of complete hopelessness on our own! Here, at His feet, finally, how clearly we can see the depths of the blessedness of His assurance of our salvation and the infinite dimensions of His amazing grace!

Close your eyes with me and bow your head in humble recognition of your Loving God and talk to Him right now.

Closing Hymn

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Prayer Requests and Corporate Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Recessional

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