

Life Lessons from Job #4: Opinions about God

06/03/09

Over the last few weeks we've been talking about life lessons from the life of Job.

We started off looking at how bad things happen to good people, and even in the midst of that, God is on our side. We then talked about integrity and how we are to be the same person no matter where we are or who we're with. And then last week we tackled lust and destructive lust can be if we allow it to reign in our lives.

Tonight we're going to finish up this look at Job by checking out how the story ends.

Recap story:

- satan approaches God, asks if he can try and get Job to curse God
- Job loses everything
- Few days later: Job then loses his health
 - o Wife says "just curse God and die"
- The rest of the book is conversations between Job, three of his friends and God
- A few friends show up to Job's house
 - o One guy says, Job you must have sinned
 - o Another guy says, Job, God is God and He will treat you however He wants
 - o And his third friend is: we're all just worms... we're nobodies and God doesn't care about us

Job 42:1-9

Here are a few more things we can learn from the life of Job

1. Everyone has their own opinion about God

...and it's probably not always right.

Many of us have had things happen in our lives and we've probably questioned: "God, why did you let this happen... God, why didn't you stop this from happening..." and in order to answer the question, we may have said:

- a. Maybe it's because I sinned, so God is judging me
- b. Maybe it's because God doesn't really care, so He's just letting things happen
- c. Maybe it's because I'm not good enough, so I need to do more good stuff to impress Him
- d. Or, maybe there isn't even a God... maybe He doesn't even exist... maybe that's why this thing happened

Job's friends made sure he knew their opinions about God. It seemed they ultimately wanted Job to give up on God too.

Whatever you've been through or may go through in life, understand this, everyone will always have their own opinion about God. But in all honesty, those opinions do not affect God or His desire for your life.

However, **those opinions will affect you and your relationship with God if you give in and listen to them.**

Of all people who were righteous, remember, the Scripture said that Job was a blameless man, of complete integrity; he feared God and had nothing to do with evil. So if we give in to the opinion that when bad things happen to us it's because we've sinned or we're not good enough or God is mad at us, that's not the truth. God did not do

those horrible things to Job because he'd sinned, or wasn't good enough... or even because God was mad at Job. In fact, Job was in the direct opposite situation... God was PROUD of Job.

Know this: **everyone** will have their own opinion about God. Some of them base their opinion on circumstances; others will base theirs on truth.

2. **The truth about God:**

(Job 42:10-17)

A. **He loves to show mercy –**

Job 42:8 – “I will not treat you as you deserve, for you have not been right in what you said about Me, as my servant Job was.”

This is not an excuse to sin... but to rejoice in the fact that if we do sin, God loves to show mercy.

B. **He loves to bless those in relationship with Him –**

Know this, God did not have to give anything back to Job... Yet, He chose to... and He didn't just give back a few things to Job, but He blessed him doubly.

C. **He is faithful –**

Remember this: **GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE**. God never gave up on Job. In fact, it's God who finishes the story with Job. The devil is nowhere in sight. God is the one who is at the finish line both with Job's friends, to show mercy and He's there cheering Job on because he kept his heart pure.

God has not nor will He ever give up on you. He is on your side.

But what it boils down to is whose opinion about God are you going to listen to...

- your friend's opinion?
- the opinion that is caused by the bad things that are happening to you?
- Or are you going to stand on the truth about God and keep going?

A lot of people quickly give up on their relationship with God because their opinion of God has been distorted by their friends... or their circumstances... and instead of listening to the truth, they've listened to lies... and now their hearts are far from God.