

The King of Patience Looks at His Life

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **James 5:11** – “Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord — that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”
1. To illustrate his statement, “Indeed we count them blessed who endure,” and to show “that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful,” James draws upon a classic Bible example of his subject matter . . . An example that lived during the Patriarchal Period of Bible history.
 2. The Book of Job introduces us to a godly man we can characterize with three r’s . . . rich, righteous, and religious.
 - a. **Rich:** As the book begins, Job’s wealth is seen in his having:
 1. A wife . . . 7 sons . . . and 3 daughters.
 2. 7,000 sheep
 3. 3,000 camels
 4. 500 yoke of oxen
 5. 500 donkeys
 6. **Job 1:3** describes him as being “the greatest of all the people of the East.” The greatest man among all the people of the East” is high recognition indeed.
 - b. **Righteous:** **Job 1:1** further describes him as a man who “was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.”
 - c. **Religious:** **Job 1:5** illustrates his religious fervor toward God . . . “So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, ‘It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.’ Thus Job did regularly.”
- B. Job 1:13-18 conveys one of the most difficult days any human being could ever live . . .
1. All that accounted for his riches was taken away in one day.
 - a. The Sabeans attacked and made off with his 600 yoke of oxen and his 500 donkeys and killed his servants tending them were killed with the sword.
 - b. His 7,000 sheep and the servants tending them were killed when fire fell from the sky.
 - c. The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down and stole all of his 3,000 camels and put to the swords the servants tending to them.

- d. And if all that news was not disastrous in and of itself, another servant brings news that his oldest son's house collapsed killing his 7 sons and 3 daughters.
 - e. All of this occurred in one day and before his body would become covered from head to toe with boils.
2. Upon receiving all this news the religious depth of Job is further seen in **Job 1:20-21** – “Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he **fell to the ground and worshiped**. And he said: ‘Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.’”
- C. What an example of the perseverance for James to remind his readers of. Job serves the world-over as the example of perseverance under pressure. How did he react to the pressures of life? **Job 1:21** – “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

JOB LOOKS AT THE PAST.

- A. “Naked I came from my mother's womb.” **Job 1:21**
- B. We, like Job, came into this world with nothing.
 - 1. We are completely dependent upon God.
 - 2. Job came into this world with nothing, so everything he had was indeed a blessing from the bounty and benevolence of God.
 - 3. Are we as grateful as Job when it comes to the things we have in life.
 - 4. We are stewards of that which God gives us . . . We are accountable for what we do with those blessings.
- C. I may look at the past . . . I don't dwell in the past . . . I don't love there anymore!

JOB LOOKS AT THE FUTURE.

- A. “Naked shall I return.” **Job 1:21**
 - 1. We, like Job, take nothing with us when go.
 - 2. We are completely accountable to God.
 - 3. Job's prosperity was not luck . . . nor mere human ingenuity . . . It was because of the great and powerful blessings of God upon his life.
- B. What you have now you will have but for a while and then it will all be gone so far as you are concern.
 - 1. Use what you have been blessed with for the right purposes in life.
 - 2. Use what you have been blessed with for the glory of God and the good of His human family. Don't be like the rich farmer in Luke 12:16-21 . . . Don't be selfish!
- C. I may think about the future . . . I don't dwell on the future . . . I haven't moved there yet . . . I am not in the future yet.!

JOB LOOKS AT THE PRESENT.

- A. “The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.” **Job 1:21**
- B. All the gain between birth and death is from God . . . And if God chooses to take away what He has given, that is His business and right, is it not?
1. We live on His beautiful planet . . . We breathe His air . . . We drink His water . . . We eat His food . . . We live in houses constructed from His resources . . . We wear clothing made from the abundance of materials He has made.
 2. Job lost all of his possessions, his children, his possessions, and a short time later his health. And through it all, he continued to trust God completely . . . “Blessed be the name of the Lord.” **Job 1:21**
 3. During the painful period of the boils, Job affirmed in **Job 13:15** – “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.”
 4. Truly we are impressed with our Savior’s words as recorded in **Luke 12:15** – “. . . For one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”
 5. We must always worship the Giver, not the gift . . . The Giver is always greater than the gift.
- C. Today is the future’s past and the past’s future. I am living in the past’s future and the future’s past . . . we call it the present. I may remember some things in the past . . . I may think about the future . . . but the present is where I am living now! . . . And my now/present will have future accountability . . . I need to be serving faithfully now!

CONCLUSION:

- A. We have observed:
1. Job looked at the **PAST**.
 2. Job looked at the **FUTURE**.
 3. Job looked at the **PRESENT**.
- B. God was a part of all three . . . God was acknowledged in all three . . . Job was faithful to God through it all. “Blessed be the name of the Lord.” **Job 1:21**
1. After suffering such great loss, “Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he **fell to the ground and worshiped**. And he said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.’” **Job 1:20-21**
 2. God is always worthy of glory, honor, and praise . . . He is to be praised in any and all circumstances of life.”

- C The Lord also rewards the faithful both here and hereafter..
1. 7 sons . . . and 3 new daughters (Jemiah, Keziah, & Keren-Happuch)
 2. 14,000 sheep
 3. 6,000 camels
 4. 1,000 yoke of oxen
 5. 1,000 donkeys
- D. **James 5:11** – “Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord — that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”
- E. **ILLUSTRATION:** A South American minnow-like fish is called “four eyes” because it knows how to make the best of two worlds. God designed its large bulging eyes with an air lens on the upper half and a water lens on the lower half. As it cruises along the surface of the water, it is able to look at the world above and the world below. **APPLICATION:** In a sense, Christians must be like this little fish. As we go through life, we need to look above to Heaven and also below to the world around us. The heavenward look enables us to focus on what God says is true and right, and the earthward look helps us see opportunities to demonstrate Christ-like compassion to people entangled in sin.
- F. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**