

Has My Trial Made Me Bitter or Better?

Job 2: 1-10

This morning we have read from a familiar passage of Scripture. We all know of the suffering of Job. He was a man who loved God and yet in a few moments time, he lost all he had. Although he lost his wealth, his family, and his health, Job never lost his faith. In the midst of all his suffering, Job held fast unto the Lord. [Job 19:25 – For I know that my redeemer liveth.](#)

He realized a great truth in his trial that God had not forsaken him and that He was in control. Job's life stands as a testimony for each of us today. There have been many who have abandoned their faith for much less than what Job endured. As we encounter the trials of life, they will have an effect on us. In them we will become bitter or we will become better. As we look at the [certainties](#) of these verses, I want to consider this question: [Has my trial made me bitter or better?](#)

I. The Character of Job (3) – [And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.](#) I want to look at Job's character in detail in a moment, but before we do there is something that we need to consider. We live in a day where many preach and believe that only the wicked suffer. There is a movement in our land that teaches that it isn't God's will for us to suffer. If we face difficulties in life, then our faith has wavered or we have wandered from God. This is not a biblical doctrine. We will see in the character of Job a man who loved God and lived for Him. [2 Tim.3:12 – Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.](#)

- When trials come don't immediately begin to question and look for failures in life. God does use trials at times to chasten His children, but just because a trial has come is no clear indication that you have missed God's will or strayed from Him. Job suffered and we will as well, but the important aspect of suffering is how we come through our trial on the other side. In our times of suffering will we be able to maintain our character before the Lord? Notice the character of Job while enduring a trial. We see:

A. A Man of Respect – [Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth?](#)

God had asked the same question of Satan prior to his 1st attack, and here we find God asking the same question. Job had already lost his wealth and his family and he is still recognized as a man who stands above the rest. God was aware of the life of Job. Those around him could see that he was a man of God and lived for Him.

- How do you stand in the midst of trials? Could the Lord say the same of you? Do those around you notice that you are walking with God even though difficulties have come?

- Even in the midst of trials we need to maintain our integrity. The world is watching our lives. If we can let our faith in God show even in hard times, then we have succeeded in being an effective witness. It is easy to live for God when the sun is shining, but it is sometimes hard in the storm. Job was consistent in his walk with God; we need that same consistency! How do others view our lives? Are we bitter in trials or better?

B. A Man of Reverence – Job was [an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil](#). He was a man who lived a holy life before the Lord and men. He feared a holy God and “turned aside, departed from, and avoided evil.” It would have been easy for Job to have questioned God and accused Him of neglecting him. We find nothing in the life of Job to reveal that he lost his reverence for God.

- Many times when trials come we are tempted to question the Lord. Why has this happened to me? God why did you allow this to come in my life if you love me? In those times it is easy to wander from God and get entangled in sin. Satan would have you believe that God doesn't love you and there is no use to continue for him. (Where has your faith gotten you? There are lost people who aren't facing these trials.) I have seen many grow bitter toward God when trails come. In our times of difficulty we must continue to fear and serve a sovereign God.

C. A Man of Resolve (3c) – [and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause](#). Job had already suffered greatly at the hand of Satan and yet he remained committed to the Lord. He wasn't about to abandon the One who had blessed him with all that he had. Notice the resolve of Job, [1:20-21](#); [2: 9-10](#). Job had lost his family and all that he had worked for and yet he worshipped the Lord. He realized that God had given and God had taken away.

- Take a moment to consider all that God has blessed you with. Has He not been good to us all? We must be careful that our worship isn't centered on the blessings we've received. Are you here today simply because God has blessed you with material blessings or because of a relationship with Him? Are you here today to satisfy yourself or to worship the Lord?
- If you are serving God for the blessings, there may come a day when they are gone and what would you have left? If our service to the Lord revolves around blessings then we will likely become bitter when they are taken away. If our service revolves around our love for Him no matter what, then we will likely become better through trials.

I. The Character of Job (3)

II. The Calamity of Job

A. The Source of His Trial (1-2; 7) – There came a day in Job’s life when Satan began to accuse him before God. He was walking to and fro in the earth, seeking someone to attack. This was nothing new. Satan appeared to Adam in the garden. God isn’t your problem in trials. [1 Pet.5:8](#) – *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*

- Every child of God will face the attack of the enemy. He desires nothing more than to defeat and destroy those who are living for the Lord. I don’t want to alarm you, but being a child of God has made you a target for Satan, especially if you are being a witness for the Lord. If you’ve never been faced with his attack, you will sooner or later. When trials come, consider the source, he is a defeated foe!

B. The Severity of His Trial (1:13-19; 2:7) – In [Chp.1](#) we find that Job was a wealthy man with a large family. He was blessed with herds, servants, sons, and daughters. One by one the messengers came with bad news, and as they each came, the news got worse. On that day Job lost all of his wealth, most of his servants, and all his children. In the verses we’ve read today, we find him mourning his losses and Satan touches his body with boils from the top of his head to the sole of his feet. Job was suffering under a heavy burden.

- Trials of life will come our way. They may become more than we can bear. (Deal with [1 Cor.10:13](#)) It is in those times that we must learn to trust in the Lord. Job would’ve never made it without God’s hand of mercy. He of all people could’ve become bitter toward God, but he chose to worship instead.

- You may be in a trial today, and I’m sure that it weighs heavy upon you, but remember things could always be worse. I don’t know of a one of us who has suffered as Job did and yet he made it.

C. The Sovereignty of His Trial (1:12; 2:6) – The enemy had come to attack Job, but God had set some boundaries. He would only let Satan go so far. Even in Job’s misery, God was still in control.

- You may be here today and feel as if you’ve almost been destroyed. Just remember that Satan has to get permission from the Lord. He can only go as far as God permits. Thank God for the hedge that He has placed around us. There will be times when God allows Satan to come in, but he can only go so far. He will eventually reach the point where God says that’s enough; you can’t go any farther.

- Life will bring some difficult days, but we are never out of the Lord’s sovereign control! Satan desired to sift Peter as wheat, and he did, but Jesus prayed for Peter. When it seems as if your world is falling apart, take comfort in knowing to whom you belong!

I. The Character of Job (3)

II. The Calamity of Job

III. The Consolation of Job – Things looked dark for Job, but he had not been forsaken. God wasn't about to abandon Job in his time of need. There were some difficult days ahead, but his hope would be restored.

- Trials of life will come, but they won't last forever. Just as Job found consolation we shall as well. Let's look at Job's consolation and how the Lord blessed him in the end. Turn with me to [Chp.42](#). Notice:

A. God Received Him (42:8) – Much of the book of Job records the conversation with Job and his friends. Much of what they had to say were accusations against Job and what he had done to deserve God's wrath. In the end God commanded them to offer a sacrifice and seek Job to pray for them. Through all of the suffering Job never dishonored the Lord. He remained faithful and God honored him among men.

- The Lord is mindful of the life we live before others. A faith that honors God, especially in trials, will be honored by God. If we can resist becoming bitter, God will make us better when the trial has ended.

B. God Restored Him (42:10, 12-13) – At the beginning of the trial, Job lost all that he had, but God gave him over and above what he had lost. [So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning.](#)

- When facing trials it may seem that all is lost, but we serve One who is well able restore our souls. God will never be indebted to us; He will always provide for those who belong to Him. God may well have taken away to provide something far better! If you will remain steadfast the Lord will take care of you in your hour of need.

C. God Reminded Him (42:14) – The Bible records only the names of the three daughters of Job. There is great significance in these names. God has reminded Job of His faithfulness and it is reflected in his daughter's names.

- He named the first [Jemima](#), which means "day." Job had endured a long night of suffering, but the day had dawned again. [Ps.30:5 – weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.](#) You may be in the midst of a dark night of affliction, but joy will come when the new day breaks!

- He named the second [Kezia](#), which “*comes from the name of a bark used for fragrant perfume.*” The life of Job had endured the stench of suffering and death. There was little fragrance to enjoy in his misery, but God had provided a sweet smelling savor at the end of his trial. Job’s sorrow had been replaced with the sweetness of God’s grace.
- He named the third [Keren-Happuch](#) which literally means “*a box of eye paint.*” It spoke of her radiant beauty. This word was also used in reference to the face of Moses as he descended from the mountain with his face aglow of the glory of God. Much of what Job had endured was of misery and dread. He had suffered much pain and despair, but now he enjoyed the radiant glory of God.
- Our lives will have those dark hours, but aren’t you glad for those times when the storm has ended and we are able to enjoy the glory of God once again? Child of God this life will have its share of difficulty, but one glorious day we will enter in to that heavenly city to enjoy the glory of our Lord forever more! There is a better day ahead.

I don’t know where you are in life today. You may be in the midst of the most difficult and trying time you’ve ever endured. That trial will either make you bitter or better. The choice is yours to make. Job chose to allow his trial to make him better and it did.

What about you? Have you faced some things that have made you angry at God? Do you need to come and seek His help in your life? You can come through your trial a better person, but it will require God’s help. Won’t you come as the Lord leads?