**16 – Patience of Job**

*Job 1:22; Job 2:9-10; James 5:11*

**James 5:1-11**

* **(v. 11)** – James gives Job as one of three examples of patience (perseverance).
  + **(v. 7)** – The farmer – has to wait for his crops to grow. (REWARD)
    - **(v. 8)** – You also!
  + **(v. 10)** – The Prophets – suffered by the hand of their audience as preachers of God’s word. (REWARD – in remaining faithful through those trials. **Cf. Matthew 5:10-12**).
* Patience – endurance; constancy (Strong)
* What must they endure? (Implied in just reading example of prophets and Job.)
  + Wrong doing from others (**cf. 5:1-6).**
    - Rich among them – not Christians. (Rich Jews who oppressed poor Jews, and especially the Jewish Christians)
    - (**cf. 2:1-7**) – They were reproved for showing partiality even to those who oppressed them and blasphemed God.
* Don’t grumble **(cf. 5:9)** – the hardship shouldn’t cause us to blame others, but we should trust God and endure the hardship.
* Thus, Job is an appropriate example for the Christians to which James writes. 🡪

**Job**

* **Job 1:13-19** – Job’s tragedy.
  + Oxen, donkeys, and their servants to Sabean raiders.
  + Sheep and their servants to ***“fire from God from heaven.”***
  + Camel and their servants to Chaldean raiders.
  + Sons and daughters killed in a great wind.
* To Job, these things were random. They just happened without explanation (That’s what the rest of the book is about. Why?).
  + Job’s character – **1:1** – Job was righteous.
  + Satan’s purpose – **1:6-7** – ***“from going to and fro.”***
    - God’s proposal implies Satan’s reason for going to and fro (**1:8**). (**cf. 1 Peter 5:8**).
  + Satan’s prophecy – **1:9-11** – His assumption is that the only reason men fear God is for sordid gain.
  + God’s response **– 1:12** – He gave Satan permission. (Note: God’s sovereignty is consistent throughout the story. He is always in control.)
* God’s confidence in Job expresses a deeper reason to fear God. This is the only way we can ever endure trials.
  + *Patience – in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings (Strong)*
  + **Ecclesiastes 12:13** – Our purpose is to fear God. He is worthy of fear and praise no matter the circumstance, so we must give it to Him.
    - **The message of Ecclesiastes would suggest we live for God BECAUSE of suffering**.
      * *The skeptic suggests otherwise. DON’T live for God because of suffering.*
* **Job 1:20-22** – Job’s response to suffering.
  + Adversity drew him closer to God. It did not drive him further away.
  + (v**. 21a**) – **cf. 1 Timothy 6:6-8** (He didn’t fear God because of the things he had.)
  + (**v. 22**) – He didn’t sin. He did not charge God with wrong.
    - (**v. 21b**) – Things happen according to natural law God has set in place (**cf. Ecclesiastes 9:11**).
      * Job was not aware of all that was going on in the background. Satan being allowed by God to do certain things.
    - (**v. 22**) – He did not curse God’s name, but blessed it. For the Lord is always worthy of blessing 🡪
* **Job 2:1-8** – Job’s second wave of adversity.
  + Satan suggested he held his integrity because his own person was not afflicted.
  + God extended Satan’s reach.
    - Boils on Job from head to toe.
* **Job 2:9-10** – Job’s wife’s suggestion, and Job’s response.
  + (**v. 9**) – His wife showed she was without as much conviction as Job. (Although there was no reason to be.)
    - Her suggestion is that he should renounce God because of the way he is treating him.
    - She was astounded at his lack of lashing out.
    - (**cf. Matthew 13:20-21** – no root. Stony soil.)
  + **(v. 10)** – There is never a time that calls for renouncing God. (In good, and bad, God is worthy of praise, and thanksgiving. “Count Your Many Blessings” song.)
    - Remember, time and chance happen!
    - *“The meaning of Job’s question is, shall we not accept the bad in life with the confident faith that it may work for our good?”* (Haley commentary on Job)
* **Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13** – God would never allow anything (good or bad) to happen to the extent that we can’t remain faithful.
  + Not only the good, but especially the bad, can help us grow. (**cf. James 1:2-4**).
  + **Cf. Hebrews 12:3-17** (Adversity and suffering could be a form of discipline to help us grow and focus on the spiritual.)
  + **Nothing can separate us from God! That’s what matters (cf. Romans 8)**