**If They Did It Then We Can Do It Now**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Job 1:1-12**

**Sunday Morning**

**December 22, 2024**

**Job 1:1-12**

1 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. 2 And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. 3 Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

4 Now his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 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.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." 8 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? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" 12 So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Saints, the story of Job has fascinated Bible readers from ancient of days to the present. His sufferings and losses are often used as an example of human endurance under the most trying conditions.

When people encounter tough times through the loss of loved ones and possessions, they often relate well to the story of Job.

His eventual triumph and restoration provide hope to those who suffer.

One great aspect of Job was his patience and endurance, which are the trademarks of his integrity.

The early church revered him as one of the prophets, noting his exemplary patience as a worthy example for believers facing persecution and hardship.

**James 5:10-11**

10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 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.

Saints, Job’s story has greatly impacted and strengthened society through its portrayal of a man who triumphed over his trials and temptations by remaining what he was—a man of integrity.

**THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JOB**

**THE STEADFASTNESS OF JOB**

**THE INTEGRITY OF JOB**

**THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JOB**

Saints, the Bible reveals that Job was perfect and upright. This certainly was not accidental, and it did not come naturally; it was by his personal choice.

Job was good to the core entirely because he wanted to be. He probably did not realize the far-reaching impact of his righteousness.

It is important for us to choose to live righteously and godly because we do influence our world.

**1. Job’s Relationship with God**

Saints, Job chose to have a relationship with God.

No one forced or coerced him into serving the Lord; he wanted to.

Likewise, each of us should seek to have our own relationship with the Lord.

We should recognize that God wants much more than a one-time encounter. His desire is to share in our lives on a daily basis.

The Bible declares that God places a high value on our relationship with Him.

He has provided His love to mankind in hopes that we would respond with a reciprocating love for Him.

For us, it is the peace of knowing we have a “friend in high places.”

However, God also seeks us out. He loves us first and best.

**1 John 4:19**

"We love Him because He first loved us."

**John 3:16**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

**1 Corinthians 8:3**

"But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him."

**2 Timothy 2:19**

"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Saints, God knows who loves Him and who does not. Job loved God and God knew he did.

In fact, Job’s good choices and lifestyle stood out from the rest of mankind and brought him special favor and attention from the Lord.

**2. Job’s Concern for His Family**

Saints, unlike some modern men who abandon their wives and children in pursuit of their own concerns and pleasures, Job was a good husband and a model father.

Job’s integrity became evident in the great concern he had for his family’s well-being.

**1 Timothy 5:8**

"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Saints, although Job sanctified his children continually, there is no clear explanation of what Job did to sanctify his children.

**Job 1:5**

5 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.

He may have performed the ritual of laying his hands on them with a prayer to God for mercy and forgiveness.

He may have anointed them with oil. He possibly talked with them about the things of God—teaching and instructing them in the ways of righteousness.

 To sanctify is “to set apart and make holy.” We do not know for certain how Job accomplished this, but he evidently sought to make his children holy and acceptable to the Lord.

**THE STEADFASTNESS OF JOB**

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**1. Was Not Controlled by Wealth**

Saints, despite the loss of all his wealth, Job never became bitter or spiteful. He was rich in material things, but he valued spiritual things more highly.

Job had his priorities in order—God first, people second, and things last.

The loss of his children caused Job more grief than the loss of his possessions. He possessed his possessions while he had them—they did not possess him.

**Job 1:21-22**

21 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." 22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

**2. Withstood Discouragement from Friends & Family**

Saints, with his wealth taken and all his children dead, Job had only his wife and friends to turn to for understanding and encouragement.

He found neither. As he sat on an ash heap in pain from the boils covering his body, his wife said to him,

**Job 2:9**

"Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

Saints, Job' wife questioned his character and honesty.

What a terrible thing to have the one with whom you have been the most intimate to question your integrity! However, Job was greater than his discouragement.

He knew in his own heart that the calamities he had experienced were not due to sin in his life.

He had been upright and righteous to the core. He was no hypocrite. Job responded to his wife’s comments:

**Job 2:10**

"But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips."

Then Job’s friends The Three Stooges had always known him to be healthy and wealthy.

When they came upon him sitting in an ash heap, they were shocked and dismayed at his predicament and made the mistake of judging him by his circumstances.

Their initial silence, and later their discouraging words and attitude, only added to Job’s misery.

Instead of encouraging him and trying to make him feel better, they gave in to their own despair and added to Job’s misery by accusing him of secret sins.

To Job’s credit he did his best not to let their criticisms destroy his own sense of personal integrity.

Saints, we can learn an important lesson from Job’s comforters: be careful not to judge others hastily. Things are not always what they seem at first. That is why people mistake:

**Education for Intelligence**

**Wealth for Happiness**

**Lust for Love**

Saints, life is not always fair because bad things do happen to good people.

Like Job, many people experience injustices and tremendous sufferings that are not their fault.

Our goal is to encourage the downtrodden rather than criticize them.

**3. Worshiped in the Midst of His Trial**

Saints, Job’s integrity was most clearly seen in his continued desire to worship the Lord despite his circumstances.

He kept on trusting the Lord despite all that had happened.

Some folks drop out of relationship with God the first time adversity hits them.

They have shallow roots and are easily choked out of their spiritual growth.

Job trusted God to see him through the best of times and the worst of times, and still he worshiped Him!

**Job 23:10-12**

10 But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. 11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. 12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.

**THE INTEGRITY OF JOB**

Throughout this message Job remained righteous even when he was tempted to be otherwise.

He could have succumbed to the temptations of self-pity, but he tried to examine his life to see if there were things that had led to his downfall.

**1. Refused to Blame God**

Job could have become bitter and resentful and blamed God for treating him unkindly, but instead he worshiped Him.

When others attempted to explain his calamity as the result of secret sins, Job defended himself.

He strongly stated his situation as not being a punishment for any wrongdoing on his part, but he also refused to blame God for his losses.

He correctly recognized that just as his material blessings came from the Lord, so also did his loss of all things.

**Ecclesiastes 9:11**

I returned and saw under the sun that--The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.

**Matthew 5:45**

"that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

**2. Rewarded for His Faithfulness**

Saints, the story of Job has one of the happiest endings imaginable.

Out of the ash heap of sickness and despair Job arose to complete restoration.

Job’s trial ended when he repented and prayed for his friends.

His willingness to ask for forgiveness as well as grant it to others was the gateway to his own deliverance.

Repentance and mercy brought Job forgiveness and blessing.

**Job 42:10-17**

10 And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

11 Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

12 Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. 13 He also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch.

15 In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. 16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. 17 So Job died, old and full of days.

**In Closing:**

Job was a man of integrity who served the Lord out of choice and not because he was forced to.

He was steadfast in his confidence despite the horrible conditions inflicted upon him.

Furthermore, he never lost his confidence in the Lord.

At the end of his life, he was a better person because of the test he had endured.

At one time or another, all of us are tested and tried.

It is important that we hold on to the Lord during those times.

It may be that the Lord has decided to show us off to the devil and prove what we are really made of!

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**