

Introduction:

We just returned from thanksgiving and many of us are looking forward to Christmas break. Likely many of us are in a season that looks a lot like Job chapter 1. We are eating feasts surrounded by family. Life is good. Faith is easy.

Learning objectives :

1. Why do bad things happen to good people?
2. How do we know God is listening when He is quiet?
3. How do we drown out the noise of the world?
4. How were the people around Job affected by Job's trials?
5. Is it wrong to question God when our prayers are not answered quickly or not answered in the way we think they should be answered?

Job 2

2 On another day the angels^[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. 2 And the Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

3 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

4 "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. 5 But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

6 The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. 8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

1. Job 2 starts with a conversation between God and Satan. We talked about people who walked with God and how we walk with each other. Have you walked with Satan? **How do you feel Satan tries to walk with you?**
2. Perhaps the most 'famous' verse in Job is

9 His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

What do we do when the people God put in our life tell us to do the wrong thing? **Do we ever question others like Job's wife did that might lead them to turn from God?**

Listen and Remember

Job 1:1 - "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil."

- Job obviously had heard God's word and chose to remember the teachings. He lived in a righteous manner, blameless and upright.

Listen and Be Faithful

Job 2:9 - "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die."

Job 2:10 - "You speak as a foolish woman speaks," he told her. "Should we accept only good from God and not adversity?" Throughout all this Job did not sin in what he said.

Job 13:15 - "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him."

Job understood that while God promises salvation in the form of heaven, life is not always going to be "good". There will be trials and tribulations as we call them. His suffering did not come because he was bad, but because of his unwavering faithfulness to God. (Job 1:8)

- In today's world, how do we listen to God and ignore 'well-meaning' people, media, etc?
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- While others may fail us, God never does. What do we do in return to stay faithful?

Listening, but Questioning

Job 34:29 - "If God is silent, what's that to you? If he turns his face away, what can you do about it? But whether silent or hidden, he's there..."

- Job stayed faithful to God even though he couldn't 'hear' the Lord's presence. (?)
- How do we remain faithful when it seems that God is quiet, when we feel alone?

Job 7:20: "If I have sinned, what have I done to you, watcher of humanity? Why have you made me your target, so that I have become a burden to you?"

- Job questions, but doesn't turn from God. Job repeatedly asks "why"? He's listening for the Lord.
- Is it wrong to question God when our prayers are not answered quickly or not answered in the way we think they should be answered?

Listen and Live

Job was **courageous** as he **feared God**

Job 1:1 - "In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil."

Job 1:8 - "Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

- Do you or I consider ourselves as people who 'fear God'? Would God consider you/me as people who 'fear Him'?

Job was a man of **prayer**

Job 42:8 "My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly."

Job 42:10 - "After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before."

- Do you feel your prayers are heard by God? Why?

Job used the circumstances to **gain wisdom**

Job 28:28 - "The fear of the Lord--that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding."

- Are we like Job, taking even the worst circumstances and gaining wisdom from them? How then do difficult circumstances benefit us as Christians?

32: 35

“Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense—let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing.

Ch 33 - God speaks in different ways

36:8 But if people are bound in chains,
held fast by cords of affliction,

9

he tells them what they have done—
that they have sinned arrogantly.

10

He makes them listen to correction
and commands them to repent of their evil.

11

If they obey and serve him,
they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity
and their years in contentment.

12

But if they do not listen,
they will perish by the sword^[a]
and die without knowledge.

42:4 “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’

5

My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.

6

Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”

Job's plight of undeserved suffering compels us to ask the age-old question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" The answer given to Job may or may not satisfy the reader. God allows pain for good reason, but He may never reveal those reasons.

Job did not reject God, but Job did challenge and accuse Him. The Almighty quieted Job decisively when He finally thundered His own perspective on the situation. God did not answer Job's question of "Why?"—He instead overwhelmed Job and his friends with the truth of His majesty and sovereignty. Job came away with a deeper sense of God's power and splendor, trusting Him more:

"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;

But now my eye sees You;

Therefore I retract,

And I repent in dust and ashes." ([Job 42:5–6](#))

How do I apply this?

Pain inevitably afflicts each one of us. Suffering is unavoidable in this life. Will your relationship with God be enough when trials come? Will you trust Him through your suffering? Read [Job 38–42](#). Spend time with the Almighty. Pray for a stronger faith in the powerful Creator described in those chapters. Pray for a right perspective of Him so that you might see your situation through His eyes.

Instead of asking where God is in the midst of your pain, the book of Job affirms God's control and asks us, "Where are we in our pain? Are we trusting our Creator, even though we cannot understand our circumstances?"

<https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-wisdom-books/job>