

**JOB'S REPENTANCE**

Do you like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches? When you hear about a peanut butter sandwich by itself, it's just not the same. Some things you need to have together. This is how it is with the Old and New Testament. For hundreds of years, people have said that the New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament is discovered in the New Testament. They work together, and when we study scripture, we must use them together.

When we read about Job in the Old Testament, we must keep in mind the New Testament. Jesus taught us that "No one is good but One, that is, God." We also know that everyone sins (Romans 3:23). Many people think of Job as a good man, and while he did good things and was an honest man who honored God, we must remember that the only person good in the eyes of God is Jesus. There are many things we can learn from the life of Job.

**Day One      God is Sovereign in All Things**Picture It

How does a person's life change when they have a baby? There are a lot of ways: they lose sleep, have to change diapers, make bottles, but they also become more responsible. When a man becomes a dad, he must consider another person when making decisions.

This is what happened to Enoch in the Bible. He "begot Methuselah" when he was 65 years old. We don't know anything about his life before that time, but there was a big change that must have happened at that point.

Read Job 1:1-12Think about It Some More

Here we are introduced to the man Job, and we can learn a little about him.

- We know that he was, "blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil." He was a "good man." This means he was a man who did right things and that he believed there was a God to whom he was accountable. He wanted to do the right things and be right.
- We know that he was a man with a family. He had seven sons and three daughters. He was careful to pray for his children and offer prayers and offerings for his children in case his sons had, "sinned and cursed God in their hearts."
- Job was also a very wealthy man possessing herds, flocks, and other possessions. It is recorded that he was, "the greatest of all the people of the east."

We also get a special view of God in these verses. It sure is encouraging to have this glimpse into His throne room. God is sovereign—He is in complete control even of the evil one! All of the angels and even Satan report to Him. They can do nothing without God's permission, not even Satan. "The Almighty" is one of the key names for God in Job; it is used 31 times. No matter what happens in this world and in our lives, God is on the throne, He is The Almighty, and has everything under control.

We also read about Satan. He is there also to give a report. Where did he come from? The writer says Satan tells God that he comes, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Satan is not ruling the earth from hell. Under God's authority, he goes about on the earth and can even go into God's presence in heaven.

God then directs His attention and the attention of Satan to Job. God says of Job, "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?" Satan puts down God accusing Him of showing Job special favor. Satan says if he could get a hold of Job, he would curse God to His face. God releases all that Job has to Satan's power, all except Job himself.

Think about that. Often times in our lives, the enemy can have influence but only under God's protective authority. This is when Job's painful journey begins. The biblical historical account of Job is one with which all of us can identify to some extent, and if you can't now, you may later in your life. We have all gone through struggles and suffering, and we have wondered, "What did I do to deserve this?" Be reminded, God is in control and even the enemy can only do what is under God's authority.

### Talk about It

- What kind of man was Job? *(He was a man who tried to do what was right and follow God.)*
- Who gave Satan the authority to deal with Job? *(God, He has authority over everything, and Satan cannot do anything without His permission.)*
- Could Satan harm Job himself? *(No, only the things he had.)*

### Pray about It

Thank God for having authority over everything.

## **Day Two      God Really Does move in Mysterious Ways**

### Picture It

Doesn't it feel good to help our friends? If you know someone who is sick or sad, it's wonderful to help them out, call to check on them, send a card or even a simple text. When we do these things, do we always do them to be a good friend, or do we sometimes do this to get glory for ourselves? It feels good when someone recognizes good things that we have done. It's ok to feel good about these things or to even let others know what we did, as long as we're not bragging, but we need to remember that doing these good things isn't what makes us good, only God can do that.

### Read Job 29:12-25

### Think about It Some More

In these verses, Job does a review of some of his good works. There is nothing wrong with these good works. Jesus said that we are to let our light shine so that others will see our good works and glorify God. Nothing is wrong with our good works, unless we are trusting these good works to win us favor with God.

Job had made a plan for his life that was working pretty well; this plan was to feel good about himself because of his good works. He became a little like a robot going through religious routines. He thought that if he did good things, God was required to take care of him. Is this true? No!

God cannot be manipulated. He is God, and we are not. We answer to Him, and He does not answer to us. His grace cannot be earned. It is his gift to sinful man, to make men right with Him. Job was stuck in thinking, "I am good because I do good works." God wanted Job to live a good life because of his relationship with God. The relationship is the focus, not the good works. Trust Him! Live from the relationship with Him!

### Talk about It

- Why did Job think he was a good man? *(Because of the good works he was doing)*
- Do good works save us or get us closer to God? *(No! We are saved because of a relationship with Jesus, not because of anything we do.)*
- Why should we do good works? *(We should do good works because of our relationship with Christ. This is a way that other people should be able to see Christ shining through us.)*

### Pray about It

God, please help me focus on my relationship with you. Let the good things I do be to bring you glory.

## Day Three      Connect to Jesus

### Picture It

Have you heard the biblical historical account of the “Prodigal Son”? It would be better to call it the “Prodigal Sons.” A prodigal is someone who wastes wealth or opportunity. In this account we read about a father who had an older son and a younger son. He probably had other sons in between but the focus is the father and these two sons. The younger son asks for his inheritance and then leaves and goes to a far country. He wastes his inheritance on sinful, fleshly living. He then finds himself poor and begins to feed pigs. He even wanted to eat the pigs’ food because he had nothing. He comes to his senses and returns home to be a servant, but his father welcomed him home, not as a servant, but as his son. The older brother is jealous when his younger brother comes home and says to his father, “after all this time I have been a faithful and good son and you have never thrown a party for me.” This son wasted too. He wasted his privilege and position and thought he deserved more because of how he had acted. The point of the parable is the faithfulness of the father to receive his repentant son. Read this account in Luke.

Read Luke 15:11-32

### Think about It Some More

So, how does the prodigal son relate to Job? Job was like the older son. He believed that he deserved something special because he had been “good”, just like the prodigal son’s oldest brother. The oldest son believed he earned a special place with the father and the youngest had no place with the father because of his behavior.

Why does God give grace? Is it because of our actions or because we are good? No!

Can a person earn God’s grace? No! It’s a free gift from Him.

The youngest son was the opposite of the oldest son. The oldest son thought he earned special treatment, but the youngest son didn’t have good behavior. He wanted to do things his own way and have a good time. It can be easy to think like the oldest son. When you see someone being a bully, it’s easy to think that you deserve better than him because you are nice to everyone. That would be wrong thinking. God is the only one who is right. His grace is for us all because we have all sinned.

### Talk about It

- Who was the better son, the oldest or youngest? (*Neither! They were both wrong and wasted gifts from their dad.*)
- Do you find it easy to think other people’s sins are worse than yours? Is this a right way of thinking? *Discuss as a family, but make sure everyone knows this is not a right way of thinking. Sin is sin.*

### Pray about It

Thank God for His gift of grace for everyone. Ask Him to help you not think you are better than someone because their sin may seem worse than yours.

## Day Four      God Wills for You to Experience His Best

### Picture It

Have you ever heard the phrase, “one step forward and two steps back?” Stand up and try to walk to the other side of the room taking one step forward and two steps back. Will you ever get there?

Read Judges 3:6-11

### Think about It Some More

In these verses, we see an example of a cycle that is common for God’s people in the Bible and still today. God goes to great lengths to bring us to obedience, but we always disobey. We take one step forward and then two steps back. The book of Judges is a record of the cycle of obedience, followed by disobedience. The people would then cry out in repentance to God, and He would raise up a deliverer. We just read an example of this. God gave his own people into the hands of their enemy because He does not want to leave His people in a place of disobedience.

This same thing was happening in the book of Job. God put Job in Satan's hands to know that Job was God's servant. He would be brought to the place of obedient surrender and would know God like he never had before! Satan put Job through incredible suffering like he did to Jesus. But, it was all under the power of God and for His purposes.

#### Talk about It

- What is the cycle we can see in the verse today and through the book of Judges? (*Obedience, disobedience, repentance, deliverance*)
- How is Job a picture of this same cycle? (*Job was obedient, but then he fell into a pattern of doing good works to be good instead of through his relationship with God. God delivered Job after his terrible suffering, and Job knew God and worshiped Him like never before.*)

#### Pray about It

If you are living in a time of disobedience, cry out to God in repentance and turn to Him.

If you are living a life obeying God, thank Him for the relationship you have with Him. Pray that you would stay close to Him and in His will, so you won't fall into disobedience.

### **Day Five            What Job Came to Understand**

#### Picture It

Let's review what we have learned this week about Job.

- No one was right except God.
  - Job was wrong-He thought he was right because he was doing good things.
  - Job's friends were wrong-They thought Job was suffering because of some specific sin.
  - Satan was wrong-He thought he could destroy Job.
- God was always in control.
- God used all of this for Job's benefit.
- God used this to bring Job back to Himself.

Today we will see that Job came to realize who God really is.

#### Read Job 42

#### Think about It Some More

God is faithful. He takes care of His people. Philippians 1:6 reminds us of this wonderful truth, "*He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*" You see this at work in Job's life. He was a servant of God, and God kept him safe. You may say, "safe? Look what happened to him!" Yes, but look how it ended! After God had shown Job that He was God and that Job was not, Job repented. He was confronted with God's greatness and grandness, and he saw his own weakness and came to "hate" himself. There will be many times that we may question God, we may even tell Him how we want things to be done, but the great truth that Job came to was that God is the One in control. He is the only one worthy or qualified to run the world. Then, Job was able to rest and be still and know that HE WAS GOD!

#### Talk about It

- How can you relate to Job? (*Answers will depend on your family.*)
- What was the truth that Job came to know? (*God is in control. He is God, and I am not.*)

#### Pray about It

Pray that God will remind you of Job when you are thinking good works that you do are enough to make you good.