

Tuesday's Touch ...#21

...from Pastor Ed ...June 16, 2009

The Patience of Job

And the LORD said unto Satan, Have you considered my servant Job... Job 1:8

My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 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. James 5:10-11

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory... 2 Corinth. 4:16-17

No one wants to be like Job. But the reality is that we are all like Job. We have been given his story for our own edification, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope (Rom.15:4). While Job's affliction is concentrated and sudden, life for every Christian is one of trials and tribulations (John 16:33, Acts 14:22), both within and without. And so, Job is a great teacher about living as a believer in a world gone horribly wrong because of sin.

First, let us not miss the fact that it was God who initially turned Satan's attention to Job (1.8). Child of God, do you know that there is not a molecule of air can brush your cheek but by order of His throne. And whatever He ordains is for His glory and your good (Rom.8:28)?

*Every joy or trial cometh from above
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love
(Francis Havergal)*

*For I will be with thee thy troubles to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
(Foundation, Rippon's Hymns)*

And so, with the focus on Job, Satan makes his wager: touch Job's wealth, family and health and he will "curse You to your face" (1:11; 2:5). But in so doing, Job's battle mission was framed in such a way that victory would be won by not cursing God- not turning from God and forsaking his faith. It was

in his absolutely broken and helpless state that Job delivers an overwhelming blow to Satan. His only weapon was faith in God out of the depths of his despair. He, at times, questioned, cried, kicked and screamed (like most of us), but he never turned away from God. Instead he proclaims, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (13:15) The mustard seed of his faith felled the dreadful giant adversary.

Additionally, Job's trials led him to apprehend some of the greatest spiritual truths:

Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he does work, but I cannot behold him: he hides himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knows the way that I take: when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold. Job 23:8-10

For I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Job 19:25-26

What is it that you are facing at present? Remember that victory is found in the perseverance of faith; and that faith flows the greatest out of our own inability to do anything. "Faithful is He who calls you, who will also do it" (1 Thess. 5:24). "We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinth.4:7).

Faithful Comforter,

May we find great consolation in the knowledge that in all our afflictions You are afflicted (Isaiah 63:9, Heb.4:15). But greater still, that all things flow from the hand of a loving Father, who, in Christ, is for us and not against us. In the fellowship of His sufferings may we discover the greater riches of His Person.

Standing boldly before the throne of grace,

Amen

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