



Sunday, September 16, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Job 2:1-13

Sometimes when it rains, it pours. We often find that to be true of our experience, don't we? When one form of suffering comes, other forms are often not far behind. Thankfully, the Bible speaks to our lives in very relevant practical ways. For any who have experienced intense suffering in waves, Job assures us that God is not unfamiliar with our situations. In fact, one of the most righteous people who ever lived experienced suffering in much the same way.

But God is not only familiar with our suffering in the abstract sense—He is not only aware of its existence. In fact, He has entered into our suffering. When we think of the suffering of Job, who was blameless before God, we can't help but quickly be drawn into thinking about Jesus Himself, who suffered unimaginably, in various ways, and yet was sinless before God. Not only did He suffer unjustly, but He suffered for us. So it is very comforting to know that God can identify with us no matter what form of suffering we are enduring.

Context

Job 2 follows much the same pattern of Job 1. Only in chapter 2, the suffering that Satan is allowed to inflict on Job is intensified. Whereas Job previously suffered the loss of his family and property, that was still outside of his person. Now, Satan is allowed to inflict terrible suffering on his body. Yet through all this, the Bible reiterates, that Job did not sin against God. The concluding verses of chapter 2 set the stage for much of the rest of the book. Job's wife and three friends are introduced. These three characters will "advise" Job as the book goes along, exploring the meaning of suffering along the way.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Job 2:1-13

“Here We Go Again”

How do we respond to God when we are tested?

1. Deal with our pain
2. Trust our God

How do we respond to others when they are tested?

1. Don't tell them to compromise their integrity
2. Have a ministry of presence

Other key ideas

1. Trials don't make us, they reveal us.
2. Job's biggest problem: Where is God in my suffering?
3. The Devil doesn't give up easily.
4. Integrity is being the same on the inside as on the outside.
5. God still allows the Devil to work today.
6. We need to trust God even when we cannot trace Him.
7. God doesn't promise explanations for our suffering, He promises Himself.

Discuss

- 1) Pastor Don began the sermon with a quote from Ernest Hemingway about the fact that trials don't make a person, they reveal a person. What have the trials in your life revealed to you about yourself?

- 2) When you have gone through times of suffering in the past, what have been some helpful ways people have tried to comfort you? What were some unhelpful ways?

- 3) Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. What does that passage teach us about how we should endure suffering as Christians?

- 4) One of the first things we need to do when we suffer is to acknowledge and deal with our pain (to the best of our ability). How can we comfort people who are dealing with significant pain?

- 5) Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. Has there been a time in your life that you have been able to comfort someone else because God had comforted you when going through a similar situation?