

Sunday, October 14, 2018

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Theme: "MYSTERY-DESERTED"

From the beginning Satan suggested that Job worshipped God only because of his wealth...

God allowed Satan to take everything from Job (wealth, children, and health). Yet Job maintained his faith in God, but not without some hard questions..

His friends heard of the situation and planned a visit...

Job cursed the day of his birth; he was unhappy...

When his friends arrived they accused Job of sinning against God therefore he was receiving just punishment...

But Job felt that his complaint was justified (chapter 6...)

He argued that his suffering was very discomfoting (chapter 7...)

Then one of his friends suggested that he go before God and repent (chapter 8...)

Job felt that there wasn't anyone to assist in finding a resolution to his problems unless he took them directly to God (chapter 9...)

And so he chose to plead with God by speaking about the bitterness of his soul (chapter 10...)

The other two friends were still not satisfied; they urged Job to repent (chapter 11...)

But Job felt that his friends were provoking him (chapters 12-14...)

One of them accused him of not having good sense (chapter 15...)

Then Job addressed his friends and described them as "miserable comforters;" he was disappointed at their criticism of him (chapter 16...)

His SPIRIT WAS BROKEN. He felt as though his days were drawing closer to death and so he prayed for relief (chapter 17...)

\*And even though Job continued to receive bad council from his friends, (chapter 18...)

\*He relied on and trusted in God (chapter 19...)

The conversation went back and forth between Job and his friends...

In this chapter, even though Job felt deserted, yet he proclaimed God's righteousness...

This is a story of how Christians should respond to suffering...

In chapter 21, Job argued that God rewarded evil...

In this chapter, Job focused his attention on God's divine absence...

"Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat (3)

He anticipated that God would say something that he would understand (6)

He thought that he could win a case if it was rationally handled (7)

Discouragement resumed as Job's GPS unsuccessfully searched for God (8-9...)

He looked to the East, but God was not there...

He looked to the West, he could not find God...

He looked to the North, he did not find God...

When Job reached the South (9b), he finally understood that even though he couldn't see God, God was there...

Job's search for and inability to see God was enough to make his heart weak and make him terrify (16...)

Yet the prospect of a DARK CONDITION did not silence Job (17...)

(1)

The purpose of suffering is meant to produce fruit:

Testing of our faith produces patience (James 1:3)

Testing of our faith produces Joy (Psalm 30:5) Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Testing of our faith produces Maturity (1 Peter 5:10). But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you...

(2)

Suffering is meant to silence the devil: (Job 1:9-12; 2:3-7)

(3)

Suffering is meant to glorify God (John 9:1-3; 11:1-4)

(4)

Suffering is meant to make us more like Jesus (Philippians 3:10)

(5)

Suffering is meant to teach us dependence (John 15:1-5)

(6)

Suffering is meant to refine our lives (1 Peter 1:6-7)

(7)

Suffering is meant enlarge our ministry toward others ( 2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

Yet, we feel:  
FORSAKEN  
ISOLATED  
DESERTED...

I don't know about you, but in my humanness, many times I have felt forsaken, isolated, and deserted...

At times I have wondered whether God was listening...

At times I wonder whether God was present...

At times I wonder whether God was concerned...

When we are experiencing pain and extreme physical and mental discomfort or suffering, we feel forsaken...

Our present condition usually dictates our state of mind...

When suffering exists, God and justice do not seem to mutually align in those situations...

\*I know this because even Jesus felt forsaken and deserted while on the Cross (Matthew 27:46).

\*Yet He remained committed to completing the work on the Cross...

This reminds us that the righteous suffer too...

The righteous can be deserted too...

But in all of our suffering, now that God is sovereign and just...

In as much as suffering is not a result of wickedness, blessing is not a result of righteousness...

A person of integrity in God's eyes is not necessarily someone who is rich and in good health...

When our wisdom is inadequate, God can still be trusted. God can be trusted in all circumstances...

If you feel deserted today, know that Jesus is watching over you...

If His eyes are on the sparrow, then know that He is also watching over you...

Amen!