

Sunday, October 28, 2018

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Theme: "MYSTERY-RESTORED"

We have been talking about Job and how he was DISORIENTED and felt DESERTED...

We talked about how he was SILENCED in the presence of God...

Last week we asked you to think about how you would feel if you were Job after your encounter with God...

Today we will conclude
by discussing Job's HUMILITY and how he was RESTORED...

In Bible study some, in answer to the question, some said that they would feel blessed and thankful...

Others said they would feel acquitted of the charge...

Regardless of how you would feel, as we conclude this Mystery Series, I want you to know that God's questions was not lost on Job...

Through God's questioning, He challenged Job by calling on all creation as witness of His glory...

*Job had little to say. He realized "I was talking about things I knew nothing about" (3...)

It was God's questioning that led Job to acknowledged his wrongdoing and submit to God, the creator...

Job realized that he could not understand God's ways, much less interrogate God...

When Job heard God with his own ears, and saw Him with his own eyes, he realized that his words were useless (5...)

*"I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance" (6...)

Whenever we repent, we show a sense of remorse. We regret our wrongdoings and turn to God...

What Job needed most in his pain was the awareness of the Creators' power and presence...

(GOD'S POWER & PRESENCE)

Like Job, we may never know why God allows us to suffer...

So whenever we are in pain, we should ask God to reveal Himself to us through his creation...

Let us look at the weather, the animals, and the skies...

God's creation should remind us that God is in control of the entire universe from beginning to end...

Job came very close to dying from Satan's attack...

He endured painful boils on his skin after the trauma of losing all his children and possession (2:4-8...)

Even though God allowed Satan's attack, He protected Job's life...

When someone has suffered for so long and does not seem to improve, even family and friends can lose hope...

Some family and friends can even make things worse, like Job's friends did...

But once there is life there is hope...

Once you are still breathing, do not despair...

Believe in God's glory and power to heal you...

God knows how much we can bear...

God knows each of our ability to withstand suffering...

It is only when we spend sleepless nights wrestling with God that we are able to learn about God's wisdom...

So do not despair...

(DO NOT DESPAIR)

I invite you to discover God's plans for your life...

*Your journey of pain and suffering can present an opportunity to have a dialogue with God...

*And a dialogue with God can offer a new perspective for who God is...

God can bless you and restore you just as He did Job...

Do not despair when things seem to be going badly...

God might be protecting you in ways you do not see, which might be the reason why you cannot do anything about it...

And so when you realize that you cannot change your situation, strive to change your perspective...

Satan can attack all he wants, but my assurance is in God and I am glad that I have a God who protects...

Trust that God is in control of the future, and be thankful...

God is in the restoration business...

(RESTORATION)

Job now has a new awareness of the wisdom of God's hidden plans...

He has a new sense of the limits of his own wisdom...

He admits that his wisdom has a limited perspective, and he totally submits to God's will and authority...

See, it was only when Job prayed for his friends that he was RESTORED (10...)

*Even though his friends criticized him...

*Perhaps he had a grudge against them...

*But self-reconciliation had to take place first...

*And when it did, Job felt relieved and he prayed for his friends...

He was RELEASED from his pain and suffering; he was restored...

*He was FREE...

*God brought an end to his suffering.. *He could enjoy life again...

God's RESTORATION of Job was immediate and bountiful...

He was given friends (11...)

He was given material prosperity (12.)

He was given family (13-15...)

He was given long life (16-17...)

*The point is not that God intends to deal with us as He did with Job...

*Rather, that God holds sovereign and loving control over our lives...

*Therefore, God can be trusted in all things in ways we cannot express or understand...

David captures this feeling in

Psalms 30:11...

[11] "You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness..."

[12] "To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever..."

(LESSONS TO BE LEARNED)

I want you to know that God specializes in tenderness, grace, and mercy...

Whenever you are experiencing pain, know that God can turn your pain into gain...

Whenever you are going through a test in your life, know that without a test you cannot give a testimony...

Whenever there is an obstacle in your life, know that an obstacle can potentially provide an opportunity...

*When adversity comes your way, do not despair...

*Rather, ask God the question: What are you teaching me in this situation...

*What opportunities do you want to bring my way as a result of this trial...

Instead of complaining and blaming, thank and worship the everlasting God Almighty...

I pray that we will be a people who find blessings in every adversity...

I pray that we will trust and believe that God can turn our obstacles into stepping stones...

Hold on to God's hands and keep the faith...

Let your faith be rooted in the hope of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...

Leave this place today believing that you are Restored...

1. God's Power & Presence
2. Do Not Despair
3. Restoration
4. Lessons Learned

Amen!