



Rock Creek Baptist Church

Oct 1, 2017

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Even if He doesn't...blessed be His name

When you lose everything...do you lose your faith too?

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Church shooting in Nashville Tennessee

Introduction to Job and his sacrifices for his children

Job 1:1-22

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. He had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom. One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has

escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Why do we say Job was a good man?

Upright: perfect integrity

Fears God: healthy reverence and respect for God

Shuns evil: doesn't let in "just a little bit"

Sacrifices for his children's innermost unknown sins

Do you pray for your children, or grandchildren? For their behaviors? For their innermost thoughts?

Lyrics: Welcome Home by Shaun Groves

Take, me, make me
 All You want me to be
 That's all I'm asking, all I'm asking
 Welcome to this heart of mine
 I've buried under prideful vines
 Grown to hide the mess I've made
 Inside of me
 Come decorate, Lord
 Open up the creaking door
 And walk upon the dusty floor
 Scrape away the guilty stains

Until no sin or shame remain
 Spread Your love upon the walls
 And occupy the empty halls
 Until the man I am has faded
 No more doors are barricaded
 Come inside this heart of mine
 It's not my own
 Make it home
 Come and take this heart and make it
 All Your own
 Welcome home
 Take a seat, pull up a chair
 Forgive me for the disrepair
 And the souvenirs from floor to ceiling
 Gathered on my search for meaning
 Every closet's filled with clutter
 Messes yet to be discovered
 I'm overwhelmed, I understand
 I can't make this place all that You can
 I took the space that You placed in me
 Redecorated in shades of greed
 And I made sure every door stayed locked
 Every window blocked, and still You knocked
 Come inside this heart of mine
 It's not my own
 Make it home
 Come and take this heart and make it
 All Your own
 Welcome home
 Take me, make me
 All You want me to be
 That's all I'm asking, all I'm asking

The transactional model: if I do good I get good, if I do bad I get bad. Don't give me anything I haven't "paid for."

Matthew 5:45

that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Why does all of this happen to Job? The answer is the questions being asked to God. Job is being put to the test, but the devil is also putting God to the test, making a bet against God and His servant.

Satan is a job title, the accuser, and we might think of him as a prosecuting attorney trying to gather up dirt on Job, and crookedly, try to incite him to sin so that he might have some dirt.

Daniel 3:16-20

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

This is the kind of faith Job has, God is mighty to save and can deliver but...even if He doesn't Job will still praise Him.

James 1:13

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

God knows the game and all the players, knows what the devil is going to do and what Job is going to do. And yet...the devil still insists on playing, and he can't win.

God is going to use the foolishness of the devil for His glory

God does not delight in evil, wish any to perish or suffer, captures your tears in His bottle, and mourns when you mourn. He doesn't want for you to be tempted and tried and will one day cast the devil into the lake of fire. The new order will come and the old order pass and there will be no more pain and suffering. But until then... this sin mankind brought into the world affects us.

There are lots of reasons sins affect us:

Our own sins

Sins of others

Sometimes no one's fault - but God can use it to glorify His name

John 9:1-3

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

You have a right to feel sad and hurt in your valley

Resist the devil and he will flee from you

God is mighty to save and can rescue you from the trial

But even if he doesn't rescue, or delays, might you say "...blessed be the name of the Lord."