



WK 3: Productive Suffering
01.28.24 | Pastor Randy

SERMON NOTES

- The blessing begins with confessing. When we stop trying to explain our side and step over to God's side, then the blessings will come.
- The order of God's working in Job's life of turning ashes to beauty matters. We often desire the latter things without pursuing the former things.
- 1. Job's repentance leads to restoration with God: Repentance must precede Restoration. Job 42:1-3
 - a. Job confesses that when he challenged God, he was basing it on his knowledge/ understanding; now, he KNOWS of the sovereignty of God and rests in it.
 - b. "Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know" Just because you don't know the plans of God doesn't mean that He isn't working for your good (Romans 8:28), Job 42:4-6
 - c. Seeing God through the power of His Word makes us see His holiness and our sinfulness. Job's response is not self-righteousness but rather self-recognition of the need to repent and sit in sackcloth and ashes (Job 2:12-13)
- 2. Job's restoration with God leads to right standing with friends: Restoration with God must precede human restoration. Job 42:7-9
 - a. God calls the three friends to repentance, as He calls all of us to do. His charge: they did not speak correctly of God; therefore, they must repent and seek forgiveness from Him and Job. A godly friend will seek God before the friendship!
 - b. Job is called upon to do good by his three friends and pray for them. Praying for others is necessary to prevent bitterness and brokenness.
 - c. Broken relationships must be healed through the pursuit of God through the finished work of Jesus and the power of His Holy Spirit. It can never be simply "swept under the rug"
- 3. Job's right standing with friends leads to replenishing of fortunes and family: Complete restoration must precede replenishing of riches (or the suffering repeats). Job 42:10-11
 - a. Job's riches and reputation are restored because Job has done all that God called him to do. The sovereignty of God is good for the soul in the good times and the bad times. Only God could justify Job, Job couldn't do it on his own. Job 42:13-15
 - b. Notice that God doubles the riches, but simply replaces the number of children. God had a plan for the number of children, but He makes them more beautiful than the ones before. God's blessing is not always in quantity, but it can also be in quality!
 - c. Jemimah (dove/peace and freedom); Keziah (sweet spice/cinnamon); Keren-happuch (radiant eyes/horn of beauty). Job 42:17
 - d. Job is allowed the opportunity to enjoy his life and his family for 140 additional years without interruption. A boring life is a blessed life when seen from the perspective of protection. Job now appreciated the hedge about him and his family.
- Matthew 5:2-12, Isaiah 61:3



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GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Job 42:1-6. How do hearing, seeing, understanding, repentance, and responding affect your relationship with God? Compare Job's response to God with Peter's response to Jesus in John 21. God desires to have a relationship with us, but it **MUST** be on His terms and according to His righteousness. Read I John 1:9. When Judas hanged himself, how was he avoiding a right approach to repentance? What are some ways that we try to avoid true repentance, thus true restoration with Jesus?
2. Read Job 42:7-9. Why does God require seven bulls and seven rams for sacrifice on part of the three friends? Read I Chronicles 15:12-29 and compare the circumstances for offering two pairs of seven. Why does Job have to pray for his friends instead of them praying for themselves? How does that differ from our prayers today? Why? Read Hebrews 10.
3. Read Job 42:10-11. How do the actions of these friends differ from the actions/accusations of Job's three friends? What does it mean "for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him?" How does this relate to the sovereignty of God? How did Job come to understand God's sovereignty? Does it mean that we are not responsible for our choices or for our consequences? Explain. How does this principle apply to I Chronicles 21?
4. Read Job 42:12-16. God doubles the amount of Job's riches, but simply replaces the number of his children. Explain the difference between quality and quantity. Job had a good life before the sufferings, but he didn't know about the hedge put around him nor the peace that comes from trusting in God's sovereignty rather than fearing what would come to exist. Now, Job doesn't take it for granted. How is this truth demonstrated in the phrase, "And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers?" Job made a move that went against culture, so there must be a purpose for his action.
5. Explain the process of repentance to restoration to replenishing. Which part is it that we often want the most or at least first? Read Psalm 51:12-17. How does David live this principle? Read Revelation 21-22. How can anything we experience on this earth compare to the beauty and blessing when Jesus makes all things new? Go back and read Job's initial remarks- Job 1:20-22; 2:10. We often confess great allegiance to JESUS but when trials come, we question His goodness and grace. How does Hebrews 10:19-25 help guide us into confidence in our God? What areas do you need to "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith" and "hold fast the confession of your hope without wavering?"