

**Considering Job  
(Week 2)  
Job 2  
“The Second Round”**

**Introduction**

Satan was loathe to take no for an answer. He had utterly failed in his attempts to cause Job to curse God, and he desperately wanted another chance. But, in order to get a second “bite at the apple”, as it were, he would need another permission slip from Almighty God. How humiliated the evil one must have felt standing before the throne and hearing those words,

**“Have you considered My servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil. He still retains his integrity, even though you incited me against him, to destroy him for no good reason.”**  
**Job 2:3**

God reminded the adversary of just how wrong he had been about Job. The devil had thrown his very worst at him, and yet he still “maintained his integrity”. The phrase in Hebrew actually means “*held on to his innocence*”. Satan had been so very sure that Job only honored God because of the blessings that God had given him, but this had proven to be false. Job feared God out of sincere heartfelt devotion. It was going to take a lot more effort to pry that away from him. Satan as the “*accuser of the brethren*” responded with yet another accusation against Job. He claimed that Job had not been “*personally harmed*”, and therefore, the contest had not been fair. The devil requested that Job be given over for personal affliction. Once again, God agreed to allow another round of testing, and once again, Satan was given the guidelines.

**“He is in your power; only spare his life.”**  
**Job 2:6**

This was just the type of license that the devil had longed for! Now, he could really prove that Job’s love for God was conditional... or so he thought. He didn’t want Job to die, that would defeat the whole purpose. He wanted Job to curse his Maker. If he could just get him to do that, he could bring dishonor upon God’s most trusted servant. This was Satan’s sole purpose. He cared not a whit for Job, nor his well being, and he was only too happy to torture him to achieve his goal of bringing shame upon Almighty God. The deceiver was only bringing shame to himself, however, for he was destined to fail. The glory of God shall never fade:

**“May the glory of The LORD endure forever; may The LORD rejoice in His works. He looks at the earth, and it trembles. You touch the mountains, and they pour out smoke. I will sing to The LORD all my life; I will sing praise to God while I live. May my meditation be pleasing to Him; I will rejoice in The LORD. May sinners vanish from the earth and wicked people be no more. My soul, bless The LORD! Hallelujah!**  
**Psalms 104:31-35**

Satan’s evil schemes would surely come to nothing, but it did not keep him from trying. Today we witness the horrible affliction that Job would endure. As if losing all that he possessed was not enough, he would now lose his health, as well as, the support of those who knew him best. Satan would thoroughly wring every ounce of anguish from the heart of Job. It is painful to watch the sufferings of this faithful servant of God, but we must consider them, in order to understand how we too must bear up under the trials of this life. Not only that, but we must consider how not to discourage others when they are suffering, as we look to the behavior of Satan, the Spouse, and the “So Called Friends” of Job, who were of little or no comfort to this poor man in his day of trouble.

**Satan (vs. 1-8)**

No one knows exactly how much time had passed between Job's first trial and his second. Many Jewish Rabbi's believe that he lost his children and worldly possessions at the beginning of the new year, and was afflicted with his disease some time around the fall of the year near Yom Kippur. It is the belief of many Jews that a person is evaluated by God every year and has until the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) to repent of sin and get things right with God. Those who are not judged as righteous by Yom Kippur will be destined to die before the coming year, according to Rabbinic tradition. Of course, *The Bible* doesn't tell us just when Job's two separate trials of his faith occurred, but we can be sure that some time had elapsed between them by simply reading the text.

Satan was convinced that Job didn't break the first time, because he had not been allowed to afflict his person. He mistakenly thought that if Job was tortured physically, the strain would be more than he could bear. When God mentions the faithfulness of Job to Satan for the second time in **Job Chapter 2**, the evil one cries out:

**"Skin for Skin! A man will give up everything he owns in exchange for his life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to Your face."** **Job 2:4-5**

Satan apparently has no comprehension of the mind of a righteous man. Job would have undoubtedly endured every hardship imaginable to preserve the lives of his children, but Satan believed that Job had not suffered enough, simply because God had not allowed him to harm Job physically! The term "skin for skin" was an old fur traders saying. It simply meant that any fur trader would be willing to trade one animal skin for a better one. Satan was suggesting that Job would gladly trade his material possessions, his servants, and even the lives of his own children in order to "save his own skin"!

The LORD had made it clear that Job was "innocent" and not deserving of any punishment (**vs.3**), but in order to prove the devil's accusations of Job's self-serving motivations as false, God allowed Satan to strike Job's health. The poor man is inflicted with a horrible disease that causes him to be covered with ulcerated sores from head to toe. It is important for us to understand that Job had not been privy to any of these "heavenly conversations" between God and the adversary. So, he must have been extremely confused and discouraged, when he woke up in the night and saw that he had been stricken with such a malady. He had been left penniless, childless, and now ravaged by disease. There can be little question that the man must have thought that he was dying. We can only imagine how discouraged that he must have felt.

Job was treated like a leper. He was expelled from within the city walls and left to die upon the garbage heap, where the people would take their trash to be burned (**vs. 8**). The pain and itch of the running sores that covered his entire body was insufferable, so he took a broken piece of pottery from the trash heap and began to scrape himself until he was left raw and bleeding. Throughout the book of *Job*, we are given several verses that provide a list of the many symptoms of this mysterious illness:

1. Sore Boils (**vs 7**)
2. Disfiguration (**vs 12**)
3. Sores infected with worms (**7:5**)
4. Fever with chills (**21:6; 30:30**)
5. Dark and shriveling skin (**30:30**)
6. Eyes swollen from weeping (**16:16**)
7. Diarrhea (**30:27**)
8. Sleeplessness and Delirium (**7:4; 13-14**)
9. Choking (**7:15**)
10. Bad breath (**19:17**)
11. Emaciation (**19:20**)
12. Excruciating pain (**30:17**)

Is it any wonder that the man might think he was dying? And he probably would have, had God not expressly forbidden it (**vs.6**). Satan had heaped upon Job the worst imaginable physical horror, and the suffering was intense. And yet, Job still refused to turn on his Maker. The poor man must have

wracked his brain trying to figure out what that he had done to deserve such punishment, but no answer came. Job sat among the ashes as an outcast, in confusion and despair.

### **The Spouse (vs. 9-10)**

**"His wife said to him, 'Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!'"** **Job 2:9**

Job had lost all of his family, except for his wife. Now, even she had lost faith in him. Even she had come to doubt the integrity of this righteous man. It is especially curious that her request of him is to do exactly what the devil had hoped for... that Job would curse the God he so loved. It is almost as if Satan was speaking directly through her.

Now, before we are too hard on Mrs. Job, let us remember that she too had gone from being the wife of the most influential man in the territory, to the wife of a pauper. When Job lost everything so did she. She too had lost ten children, which would break any mother's spirit. And finally, as if this weren't enough to completely discourage her, she had to endure watching her husband of so many years disfigured by a mysterious disease that had ravaged his body and caused him to be exiled from their home town. It was more than she could bear. Perhaps she had sought a quick end to Job's suffering by wishing him to curse God and die. It is unclear if she believed that God would strike him dead, or that he should simply take his own life, but Mrs. Job had undoubtedly reached the end of her rope. Hopelessness causes us to say irrational things at times does it not? Job immediately corrected her.

**"You speak as a foolish woman speaks," he told her. 'Should we accept only good from God and not adversity?' Throughout all this Job did not sin in what he said."** **Job 2:10**

It was a sermon from the ashes. I cannot tell you how many times I have visited some dear saint in the hospital, just hoping to bring to them a bit of encouragement, and lo and behold, they say something that encourages me! People who walk with God are just like that. Those who have walked with Him long enough will always have a bit of His wisdom to share in every situation.

Job warned his wife not to speak as a "foolish woman" would speak. The Hebrew word for foolish is Nabal, and it describes someone who has no regard for God, nor the things of God. The book of *Proverbs* gives countless warnings for those who would play the fool and discount the fear of The LORD.

**"The Fear of The LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of The Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, you are wise for your own benefit; if you mock, you alone will bear the consequences."** **Proverbs 9:10-12**

If Job had ever needed the faith, love and understating of his wife, it was in this horrific time of his life, but sadly, he found himself having to bear such intense sorrow alone. He sat in the ashes and encouraged her to remember God and accept from his hand both the good times and the times of sorrow. This was, most likely, not what she had wanted to hear in this moment, but it was wise counsel nonetheless. How Job must have longed for a sympathetic, understanding ear with which to share his burdens. He looked out into the distance and saw his three most trusted friends, who had traveled far to encourage him. The old man must have had tears in his eyes as he saw them approach, believing that hope and comfort had finally arrived. But they too would offer nothing to ease his burden.

### **The "So Called" Friends (vs. 11-13)**

*The Bible* tells us that three of Job's friends met together and decided to visit him in his time of trouble. Eliphaz traveled from Teman which was in Edom, thus making him a descendant of Esau. Bildad lived in Shua, which means that he was a descendant of Abraham, with his concubine Keturah (**Genesis 25:1-2**). Zophar was a Naamathite. Naamah was located in northern Arabia. These men traveled far to come to Job's aid. It is quite possible, if Job was indeed in some type of shipping business, then these

three men may very well have been his business partners. Upon hearing of his great calamities, they would have undoubtedly rushed to see for themselves what had befallen their trading partner.

Job must have been relieved to see them coming, seeing that everyone else that he trusted was either dead or had abandoned him. When the men saw Job sitting upon the ash heap of the city dump they couldn't believe what they saw.

**"When they looked from a distance, they could barely recognize him. They wept aloud, and each man tore his robe and threw dust in the air and on his head. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights, but no one spoke a word to him because they saw that his suffering was intense."** **Job 2:12-13**

How it must have been a source of comfort for Job to have his friends there standing vigil with him in his suffering. For seven days and nights they sat in silence. How much better for Job would it have been if they had all simply remained silent. There are times when no one needs to say a word. We should never pretend to understand the things in life that are beyond our understanding. Sadly, as all three of these men sat with Job, each of them were forming an opinion as to why The LORD had brought such suffering upon their friend. It would have been far better, if they had simply sat with him in silence, but they would only be able to hold back their "wisdom" for so long. Job didn't need any advice, he simply needed someone to believe in him. He needed someone to understand that he had done nothing to deserve such suffering. But sadly, this was just too much for most people to comprehend. We live in a world that wants to put a "reason" on everything, when sometimes, we are simply not wise enough to comprehend that reason.

Here was Job, suffering intensely for being a righteous man, even God had declared him righteous, and yet, he was suffering outside the gates of the city, just wishing that someone would believe that he had done no wrong. He had hoped that his friends would understand, but even their judgmental glances must have told him that was not the case. He had never felt so forsaken in all his life. If only someone would just believe in him.

Two thousand years ago, a thirty-three year old Jewish Rabbi was led outside the city wall to suffer more than any man has ever suffered. He was forsaken by His closest friends and taken out of the city to be crucified, although He had committed no sin. He laid down His life and took upon Himself the sins of the whole world. He was the ultimate suffering servant. Those who witnessed his execution stood around making false accusations against Him. They said that if He was truly the righteous Son of God that He claimed to be, then He would be able to come down from the cross and save Himself. They just didn't understand. He earnestly prayed, **"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"**. He stayed on that cross outside of town and endured the suffering and shame. He had been beaten until He was unrecognizable, and just like Job, He never said a word. He endured all of that, and what did He hope to gain from it all? He longed for someone to believe in Him. His name is Jesus, and He is the Faithful Servant of God, Who suffered... for you. And, if you would only just believe in Him, you will inherit eternal life. The story of Job is merely a foreshadowing of the greatest story ever told.

**"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."** **John 3:16**

So you see, when we endure suffering and still bring praise and glory to God, we are as much like Him as we can possibly be. When a person gets squeezed, what is on the inside comes out. How do you handle adversity? Can people see Christ in you when you suffer? Job didn't understand what was happening to him at the time, but when he got to stand in the presence of The LORD, I wonder what he thought when God The Father explained to him that his suffering had pointed the world to Jesus, The Only Begotten Son of God? I imagine that he fell to the ground and worshipped, saying:

**"Blessed be The Name of The LORD."** (Job 1:21)

And ALL of God's people said... **TRUTH!!!**