

**Considering Job**  
**(Week 6)**  
**Job 15-19**  
**“There Is A Redeemer”**

**Introduction**

I had an interesting conversation with my doctor this week. It seems that there are new federal regulations that require our doctors to ask their patients questions regarding our state of complete “wellness” whenever we visit the doctors office. For instance, I am a diabetic, so the doctor asked me if I was getting regular eye examinations to be sure the diabetes hasn’t had an adverse effect on my eyesight. I told him “yes”. He also asked me if I was getting enough exercise... “probably not, but some”, was my timid reply. (I really should work on that one). And finally he asked me about my mental health and state of mind. “Do you ever get depressed?”, he asked. “Well of course, doesn’t everyone?”, I answered. This led to a deep discussion of the various forms of depression and its treatment.

Are you aware that the United States (the wealthiest country on earth) has the highest percentage of people in the world who are on some form of medication for depression? Now, I am not discounting the need to be medicated if a person has a chemical imbalance that leads to depression. I am certainly not someone who discounts legitimate science. But, I do find it strange that we live in a country where there is an abundance of wealth and all the “stuff” the world says will make us happy, and yet, we are the most depressed people on the planet. It simply proves the old saying, “Money can’t buy happiness”, does it not?

My doctor, who is a believer by the way, went on to ask me what I did when I found myself “spiraling into a dark place”. My answer was pretty simple... “I pray.” To which he replied, “Just think of all those people out there who do not know Christ, and you will have a better understanding of their struggles.” I had never really thought about that much before. I have a Savior that I can call on at anytime when I am feeling overwhelmed, but the lost person, well that person can only seek human comfort. When the world closes in on a lost person, they have only their friends, family, and ultimately people in the medical and psychological profession to help them. The child of God has Jesus Christ, the great physician who is simply a prayer away. You don’t even need insurance, and the deductible was paid in full at Calvary!

When we see what little comfort Job received from his three friends, we can completely understand why that human wisdom is terribly lacking, when we find ourselves in a state of utter despair. These men rushed to Job’s side when they heard of his troubles, but their counsel actually made matters worse. When their first attempt to convince Job that he was suffering because of some sin in his life failed, you would have thought they would have tried another strategy. But sadly, instead of backing down, they “doubled down” and attacked Job with more ferocity. Is it any wonder that the poor man just wanted to die. In fact Bildad (who speaks again in **Chapter 18**) actually uses the specter of death to “scare Job straight”, as it were. He waxes long and poetic of how terrifying that the death of a sinner will be, in hopes of scaring poor Job into admitting what a wretched sinner that truly he is. Today we would call Bildad a “hellfire and brimstone” kind of preacher. Listen to his words of “encouragement” for poor Job:

**“Yes, the light of the wicked is extinguished; the flame of his fire does not glow; The light in his tent grows dark, and the lamp beside him is put out. His powerful stride is shortened, and his own schemes trip him up. For his own feet lead him into a net, and he strays into its mesh. A trap catches him by the heel; a noose seizes him. A rope lies hidden on the ground, and a snare waits for him along the path. Terrors frighten him on every side and harass him at every step. His strength is depleted; disaster lies ready for him to stumble. Parts of his skin are eaten away; death’s firstborn consumes his limbs. He is ripped from the security of his tent and marched away to the king of terrors. Nothing remains in his tent. Burning sulfur is scattered over his home. His roots below dry up, and his branches above wither away. All memory of him perishes from the earth; he has no name anywhere. He is driven from light to darkness and chased from the inhabited world. He has no children or descendants among his people, no survivor where he used to live. Those in the west are appalled at his fate, while those in the east tremble in horror. Indeed, such is the dwelling of the unjust man, and this is the place of the one who does not know God.”**

**Job 18:5-21**

Wow Bildad! Time to switch to decaf! Yes, we are fully aware that those who reject God have a horrible fate that awaits them. The problem is... Job is most definitely NOT one of those people. You are trying to scare a man into getting saved, that has already been saved! The problem with the theology of Job's three friends is very simple. They had to keep believing that only the wicked will be called upon to endure suffering in this life, for if that were not true, what was happening to Job could also happen to all of them. They refused to accept that God sometimes allows suffering in the lives of His people. For them the thought of that was terrifying. They preferred a more "televangelist" type of message that says all believers get everything they want and that a loving God would never use hardship to teach His children. This has always been and shall forever be... false doctrine. Children of God do in fact suffer hardship, but the incredible joy of it all is that we have a sympathetic High Priest, Who cares for us and will protect us as we go through the fiery trials of life. He is our Redeemer, and His name... is Jesus! Job gives the most amazing tribute to Christ, when he responds to the frightening words of Bildad in **Chapter 19**. He exclaims:

**"But I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the end He will stand on the dust. Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh." I will see Him myself; my eyes will look at Him, and not as a stranger."** **Job 19:25-27**

Yes Job, Your Redeemer does live. He lives for evermore. He lives when you have lost everything. He lives when your friends have deserted you. And yes, He lives, even when you face death itself. We can face whatever tomorrow holds, because Jesus lives!

### **When you have lost it all... Jesus Lives**

**"I call for help, but there is no justice. He has blocked my way so that I cannot pass through; he has veiled my paths with darkness. He has stripped me of my honor and removed the crown from my head. He tears me down on every side so that I am ruined."** **Job 19:7-10**

Job had lost everything; his possessions, his children, and even his status in the world. In the midst of his despair, he didn't understand why God would ever let this happen to him. He felt that God was being unfair, that God was angry with him without cause. But what Job didn't understand was that God had such confidence in his faith, that He was willing to use his sufferings to prove Satan wrong. Job knew none of this, but that is usually the case when we face hardship. We don't understand the why of it all, but if we will but be patient and endure, God will come through for us in the end.

Although Job was so miserable that he prayed to die, not once did he consider denying God, nor committing suicide. He was content, no matter what, to let God be God. All Job was asking for were answers. Have you ever faced a trial that you could not understand? Have you ever been in "a very dark place" where all seemed hopeless? Then know this; no matter what trials we face, we have One Who cares for us, Who walks alongside us in the midst of fiery trials. He is our Redeemer.

In Job's day, a "Redeemer" (*Gaw-al* in Hebrew) was a near kin that had the wherewithal to deliver a person from something when they were powerless to do it for themselves. The story of Ruth tells us of a kinsman "Redeemer" named Boaz, who fell in love with Ruth and was able to secure her deceased husband's property back to her. In those days a woman could not own property without a husband, so in Ruth's case, Boaz was willing to marry her so that she could regain her estate. What a beautiful picture of Jesus, our kinsman Redeemer, who was willing to die for the Church (His Bride), so that we could receive our inheritance of heaven and everlasting life! Job too, knew that he needed a Redeemer, one who would do what he could not, one who would vindicate him in the end and prove to the whole world that he was not suffering because of sinfulness. Job, in the midst of his painful torment, cried out **"I know my Redeemer lives, and at the end He will stand on the dust. Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh."**

What an incredible statement of faith! Allow me to put this in some perspective. As we have said before, Job is the oldest book in the Bible. Job didn't even HAVE a Bible to read, he didn't have the Law of Moses, for it had not yet been written, and yet, here he is speaking of a Redeemer and the resurrection of the dead! Now folks, only God could have revealed that to him. You see, since the beginning of time,

this old world has **always** been about Christ! Job didn't fully comprehend it, but somehow he knew that there would come a Kinsman Redeemer, Who would be able to deliver him from his fiery trials, even if it was long after Job had passed away, he still knew that such a one would deliver him. Or as King David would say:

**"One who is righteous has many adversities, but The LORD rescues him from them all."** **Psalms 34:19**

**Psalms 34** is often referred to as "the deliverance psalm". It plainly tells us that the righteous will have struggles. As a matter of fact, in Job's case, he lost everything. But Job also had what every other child of God has... a Redeemer, who will rescue the powerless in their time of need. So, just remember my friends, though you may have lost everything... Jesus lives!

### **When your friends have deserted you... Jesus Lives**

**"He has removed my brothers from me; my acquaintances have abandoned me. My relatives stop coming by, and my close friends have forgotten me. My house guests and female servants regard me as a stranger; I am a foreigner in their sight. I call for my servant, but he does not answer, even if I beg him with my own mouth. My breath is offensive to my wife, and my own family finds me repulsive. Even young boys scorn me. When I stand up, they mock me. All of my best friends despise me, and those I love have turned against me."** **Job 19:13-19**

First let me say, if you are going to take a stand for God in this world... you **will** lose some friends for it. That being said, I think it is safe for us to say that none of us have had to endure the kind of isolation that Job endured. Only Christ can sympathize with this. When He went to the cross, pretty much everyone abandoned Him as well. His mother and a few of her close friends, along with the disciple John were the only ones that could be found at the foot of the cross that day. Everyone else had abandoned Him. This is the same Jesus that just a few days earlier had multitudes of people waving palm branches at Him and shouting Hosannah (save us now). Jesus understood fully what Job was having to endure.

Have you ever felt abandoned? Have you lost someone close to you, either through death or simply from irreconcilable differences? Well, let me tell you, Christ understands. And if you belong to Him, know for certain that He will never leave you, nor forsake you (**Hebrews 13:5**). Many in this world can disappoint you. You may lose everything. Your friends, family, and all those that you love may forsake you... but your Redeemer lives, and He is with you always even unto the end of the world (**Matthew 28:20**)!

### **When you face death itself... Jesus Lives**

**"I wish that my words were written down, that they were recorded on a scroll or were inscribed in stone forever by an iron stylus and lead! But I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the end He will stand on the dust. Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh. I will see Him myself; my eyes will look at Him, and not as a stranger. My heart longs within me."** **Job 19:23-27**

You see Job believed that he was dying, in fact, he was hoping that he would. His only fear is that he would die and be forgotten before he had a chance to prove his innocence. He wishes that his words would be recorded, so that when he was eventually acquitted of the "crimes" that his so-called friends were accusing him of committing, then everyone would finally know the truth. It is important to know that this prayer was answered, for here we are, thousands of years later, studying Job's every word. Our God is awesome, wouldn't you agree?

Job was counting on God to validate him in the end. His Redeemer would surely stand upon the earth and one day declare him innocent. Job was counting on his kinsman redeemer to come through for

him, even if it wasn't until after he had died. There is a message in there for all of us. Even death, is not the end for the child of God.

Our Great Redeemer died upon a cross and rose from the dead. He was as Paul says the "First fruits" from among the dead (**1 Corinthians 15:20**). This is speaking of the Jewish feast of "First fruits" when the first sheaf of grain was plucked up from the ground and waived before The LORD as a thanksgiving offering for the harvest that was surely to follow. Jesus rose from the dead, on the day of "First fruits", and he represents the harvest that is to come. Quite literally, all of those who believe in Him will be raised from the dead, as He was. In short, because our Redeemer LIVES, we too have no fear of death, because we shall live with Him forever more. Because He lives, we shall live... forever. So then, even in the face of death, we have nothing to fear. Christ will "vindicate" us, and we shall be judged as righteous. If you're the shouting type, this would be a good time to let one go.

I would like to close today with the story of Horatio Spafford. Horatio Gates Spafford was a prominent American lawyer, as well as, an elder in the Presbyterian Church. The Spaffords were very well known in 1860's Chicago and were close personal friends of evangelist D. L. Moody. The Spaffords nearly lost everything in the great Chicago fire, but this was not the end of their heartache, for they later lost their four year old son to Scarlet fever. Two years after his son's death, Horatio decided that his family needed to take a vacation to get away from it all. He chose to go to England, for he knew that his dear friend D. L. Moody would be preaching there in the fall. Being delayed due to business concerns, he sent his family on ahead with the intent to join them later on. On November 22, 1873 The Ville du Havre, the ship that held his family was struck by an iron sailing vessel, and 226 people aboard lost their lives. Among the deceased were Spafford's four daughters Annie, Margaret Lee (Maggie), Elizabeth (Bessie), and the youngest Tanetta. His wife Anna sent him a telegraph from England that simply read "Saved alone". Spafford immediately sailed for England. During his journey he wrote the now very famous hymn, "It is well with my soul". Here are some of the words that he wrote as he sailed over the very spot where his daughters had perished:

*"When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
My sin O the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin not in part but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, praise The LORD, praise The Lord  
O my soul*

*It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*And lo haste the day when the faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll.  
The trump shall resound and The LORD shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul."*

Those are most certainly the words of a man who knew The Redeemer personally. Wouldn't you agree? He didn't merely know "about Jesus", no, He **knew** Jesus as his friend. Just as Job had declared, **"I will see Him myself; my eyes will look at Him, and not as a stranger."** (**vs. 27**). This is the testimony of the man who knows The Redeemer, and knowing Him is a guarantee that death is most certainly not the end of it all. So, I am left with just a few simple questions for you this morning. Do you know The Redeemer? Is it well with your soul today? Would you be hold firmly to your faith no matter what fiery trails you must face, losing all that you hold dear, losing those that you love, or even death itself? Would you still be ready to meet Him face to face? Would you be able to endure, because of a faith that proclaims above the sound of the rushing waves and winds of the storm, "I know that my Redeemer... **lives!**"

If you answered yes to these questions, then my friend you posses all that you will ever need to enable you to endure storms of life and come out on the other side to a place of everlasting peace.

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