

LIFE Group Leader Handout

September 6, 2015

Message—Where Is God When Bad Things Happen?

Pastor Ayars

Scripture—Job 1:1-12

[1:1] There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. [2] There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. [3] He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. [4] His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. [5] And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

[6] Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. [7] The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." [8] And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" [9] Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? [10] Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. [11] But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." [12] And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Main Idea—God is Sovereign; God is Good. He Will Bring Justice.

Theodicy—an explanation to answer the question why a good God permits the manifestation of evil.

Job was wealthy and favored.

Chapters 1 & 2 tell of his sufferings—his wealth, his children, his health, & the support of his wife and friends.

Job did not curse God even though he did not know what we know—that there was a cosmic test involving the Lord and his adversary the devil.

God was in the midst of this testing and proving the faith of Job—it proved genuine. Sufferings do not give or destroy faith—they reveal faith that is there.

We learn:

- Suffering is not always because of personal wrong, suffering often comes to us because we live in a sin-cursed world.
- There is a divine purpose in all death, suffering and tragedy.
- Satan cannot go beyond what God allows—notice that God would not let Satan take Job's life.
- There is great reward to those who remain faithful to the Lord—see Job 42:10
- This life is not all there is—there is an eternity that we will share with the Lord or separated from him.

When tragedy strikes, the enemy of our soul taunts us with the question—"Where is your God?"

The Bible affirms that **He is sovereign and He is good.**

God's sovereignty is represented this way: God is on the throne. Not an evil government, not an evil person, nor the devil, nor is it empty. God is clearly on the throne.

God's sovereignty:

- He is **not helpless**, wanting what is good but unable to bring it about.
- He is **not the author of evil**, ordaining evil acts.
- **He has sovereignly given man a measure of freedom**
 - His **perfect will**—that which is totally good and right
 - His **permissive will**—that which is not totally good, but which God allows because He has sovereignly given some freedom to man
 - His **prevailing will**—the limits of His permissive will. The boundaries of those who would seek to do evil

God can sovereignly bring good out of evil things—Romans 8:28 God brought Pastor Ayars and others to Christ through the tragic death of his fiancé.

Application—

- How did this message help you to understand the world and world history?
- How did this message help you to understand your own personal life story?
- Job said this at the end of this story: *I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.* (Job 42:5-6 ESV) Are you able to “look back” on previous trials and troubles and declare something akin to this?