

**JOB SERIES SEVEN  
THE UNSINKABLE LIFE  
PASTOR GLENN BARTEAU**

**JOB 42:1-6; JOB 13:15-16; JOB 23:10; HEBREWS 5:8; GENESIS 17:7-19; EXODUS 5:20-22; JEREMIAH 20:7-9;  
MATTHEW 9:9; JOB 19:25-27**

- Hook Q) Have you ever noticed some people have God all over them?  
God always blesses them; Some people are always having encounters with God?
- It's like they have Jesus Pixie Dust on them!  
Everything they do works.  
Their God moments make you salivate... it all makes sense.
- (ILL) They're the people that when driving down the HWY their lane is moving fast.  
You see them go by, and they have time enough to wave and say "Isn't Jesus good?"  
As soon as you change lanes to get in the glory they were in, traffic slows down,  
and now they're in your old lane and it's flying... That's because God is with them.
- T>> If there's anything the book of Job shows us, it is that appearances can be deceiving...  
↳ Faith is something of the heart.
- ^ Job comes through this time of torment w/ a kind of unsinkable character.
- Faith is more than a way of being rewarded for a good life. If I live this way... then God will make me a happy successful person.
  - Faith is more than Finding Relief: Enduring pain and suffering until relief comes.  
↳ Many times we enter the process of Faith for these reasons, but Faith becomes a force that changes the very fiber of our being.
- Job 42:1-6 "Then Job replied to the Lord: I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge? Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me,' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you."
- T>> This morning I want us to look at three Statements of Faith made by Job because they are a reflection of The Unsinkable Life.
- Job 13:15-16 "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in Him; I will surely defend my ways to his face. Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance, for no godless man would dare come before him."
- ^ If he slays me? Yes, if he slays me – Job is saying it doesn't make sense any more, but I'll just keep trusting in God.

background

^ Job has become completely frustrated with his friends. They have rolled out this theory about why Job is suffering... they have tied it all together in a nice neat package that answers all the questions.

- They want to have a **sensible faith**. All of us want to have a sensible faith, We want it to all add up, and we want to understand... but Job is coming to a new understanding... Faith isn't always sensible.

## 1. Often Faith raises more questions than it answers <sup>p.107</sup>

Q: Have you ever felt like your Xian journey wasn't sensible?

i.e. You've faithfully served God, But you have cancer, and your neighbor lives his life in the gutter and he's healthy as a horse.

(Story)

An atheist – as a statement of his own greatness, told me he went outside and screamed “God if your real, I dare you to strike me w/ lightning... drop me dead of a heart attack.

I'm thinking God... “I'm not saying killing, but you could strike lightning real close... singe his clothes a little... that would get the point across.”

↳ Why does this guy get off scot free?

When I see people living by faith, I want their lives to work out – things to go easily, healthy, no problems.

↳ To often a commitment to faith is some how tied to our notion of the American dream.

Gen 17:17-19

**Abraham** – Abraham is laughing... it doesn't make sense.

Ex 5:20-22

**Moses** – Moses does what God asks and yet everything seems to go the wrong direction

Jer 20:7b-9

**Jeremiah** – He does everything God asks, Potter house, Clay Jar, The leaders just get mad and they beat him and throw him into the stocks.

↳ Jeremiah actually reaches the place where he wishes he had never even been born... Sound familiar? Job reaches a place of such depression and confusion that he wishes he had never been born.

If you're in one of those places where life doesn't make any sense... It's okay... You're in really good company.

↳ **God was still with** Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah, and Job even though they had a lot of questions.

## 2. Our Faithfulness will cause problems <sup>- Gregory p.103</sup>

^ You can make the argument that... had Job not been as faithful as he was... He wouldn't have faced so many problems.

We live in a world that is not living in harmony with God... and when we live in harmony with God then we are living in opposition to most of this world.

And it can be a source of problems.

(Story)

Dr. Boris Cornfeld was a Jew who lived in Russia during the early years of Communism. He was a brilliant, able-bodied man, It's suspected that somewhere he made a small comment that threatened someone in power, and he was arrested and transported to a Siberian concentration camp.

In prison he became a believer... and it changed his whole life. But a Russian Concentration Camp is a dangerous place to live as a believer. He started using his skills as a doctor to care for the men in prison.

One evening the doctor was sitting by the bedside of a young man he had performed surgery on, and He shared the gospel w/ the young man as he came in and out of consciousness. The next morning the boy woke to find the doctor clubbed to death by the guards.

i.e. As a believer your boss might ask you to do something deceptive, and your refusal could cost you a lot.

i.e. Neighbors or Co-Workers may want to pull you into gossiping about someone else... maybe about someone who really is an irritation... but if you take the high road...  
↳ "You may have to say I understand your frustration, but we need to treat that person better.

And you could become the outcast.

When Jesus walked this planet he attracted criticism and oppositions at every turn. It was because of the way he lived. He loved God and he loved others.

- ✓ He asked people to examine their real motives.
- ✓ He challenged the pride and arrogance of kings and rulers.
- ✓ He called people to a life of inner devotion to God, not an appearance of goodness.
- ✓ He championed the cause of people hurting and in need.
- ✓ He was doing the most important work of all... the work of his father's kingdom... it is a glorious business... this business of the Kingdom of God.

Friends – You have been called to a glorious business...

- ⇒ When you come to worship you do something glorious... worship is for God.  
You lift your voice and your heart... You're doing the work of ministering to God himself... (never forget, worship is never about us... it's about God)
- ⇒ When you champion the weak – You are taking a little piece of heaven (God's Kingdom) and you bring it down on earth.
- ⇒ When you share the gospel w/ another person... you are extending an invitation started first by Jesus Christ himself.

Matt 9:9

“Come and follow me...” I wonder how long Jesus had watched Matt, prayed for him. I wonder how many conversations he had with him. When religious people refused to be his friend, Jesus sought him out.

↳ Friends, you get to continue this business...

⇒ When you comfort the mourning... you are ministering to people the Jesus cares about.

T>> It's not an easy life, it has its difficulties, but it's a rewarding life.

Job 19:25-27

“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God, I myself will see him with my own eyes I, and not another. How my heart yearns with me!

In verse 26 he comes to accept death and pain as part of life...

### 1. Pain forces us past mere living Hansel p.71

(Quote) Frederick Buechner asks:

- ✓ Have you wept at anything during the past year?
- ✓ Have you thought seriously about the fact that someday you are going to die?
- ✓ Do you really listen when people are talking, instead of just waiting for your turn to speak?
- ✓ Is there anybody you know in whose place, if one of you had to suffer great pain, you would volunteer yourself?

If you answer to all or most of these is No, then chances are you're dead!"

○ There may be air in your lungs, and blood flowing through your veins, but you're not really living.

(Movie)

George Burns plays God living on earth. He's asked by a girl why bad things happen: “That's the way the system works... have you ever seen an up, without a down: A front, without a back? A top without a bottom?

I have discovered that if I take away sad, then I take away happy, too.

To live without pain is to live half-alive

Many of us do not realize that pain and joy run together. When we cut ourselves off from pain we have unwittingly cut ourselves off from joy as well.

### 2. Pain brings a peace unique to itself

v: “My heart yearns within me!”

^ Somehow Job has found a peace in the pain of his life. The pain has given something to measure all other things by.

He feels the **joy of the Lord**, because he more deeply appreciates the **sorrow of the Lord** as well.

Some of you here today are facing unbelievable pain:

- ✓ Health issue
- ✓ Relationship with a family member is falling apart, and it's breaking your heart... It dominates your thoughts, you wish your only pain were physical.
- ✓ Maybe you're healthy, but one of your children isn't - You would trade w/ your child in a moment, but you can't.

(Story)

Hospital visit of a young mom who had been badly burned...

- Her burns had kept her from being able to hug her little daughter.

But in the same breath she said God is in this... I have my daughter. As never before I have this wonderful gift to seeing how special a gift she is.

While she could not begin to understand everything... she came to see how God was really more apart of her life than she had ever realized before.

### 3. **Learn to recognize the liabilities of pain**

#### **Fatigue**

The word exhaust comes from a Latin word meaning "to draw out of." It's the feeling of being used up. Painful struggles have a way of using us up, leaving us drained of all our natural resources, of being used up before our time.

#### **Self – Preoccupation**

It drives us into the "what ifs" and the "blaming game". We can waste enormous amounts of energy process in all the other possible out comes that could have been, or we spend emotional energy blaming others for our pain, which does nothing to solve the issue we face.

One definition of a coward is simply "someone who makes a lot of excuses." Most of us have enough excuses to last a lifetime. The sooner we let go of them and get on with living, the better off we are.

(Quote) Helen Keller

"I'm very fortunate, I can place my hand gently on a small tree and feel the happy quiver of a bird in full song. At times, my heart cries out, longing to see these things... p.76

#### **Guilt**

Conviction and guilt are different. Conviction is God's prompting in our heart that we violating our relationship with Him or others because of sin. To often guilt is a kind of shame that blocks the process of grace from taking hold in our lives.

#### **Depression**

Depression is an extension of both guilt and anger turned inward. If you struggle with depression you need to know: 1) You're normal, 2) it's an inevitable byproduct of what you're experienced, and 3) it doesn't last forever.

(ILL) The lesson of the coffee bean – A father gives a lesson to his daughter about the pains of life, he boils a carrot, an egg, and coffee.  
Soft, hard, the other changed the water...  
Job 23: 10 “But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

1. **Faith must be tested before it can be trusted.** – Wiersbe p.89

Heb 5:8 Although [Jesus] was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.”

2. **Most of us already are in the place where God wants us to be** – Hansel p.97

Sometimes the best thing to do is not to run from trouble, but be patient, and look for the work that God is already doing.

(Story) Tim Hansel – “You’ve Got to Keep Dancin”  
Hiking up Palisade Glacier, weather condition changed, half way across an ice bridge his crampons balled up with ice, He falls on his back and floats off the edge of the Snow Bridge and lands on his back. 2 ½ inches shorter.

For the next several years he went from doctor to doctor trying to find relief from the constant pain.

(Quote) Friend asked him to go see his own doctor, so he had hundreds of x-rays sent over and met with the doctor.

“After studying them carefully, he turned to me. With a gentle smile and a slight twinkle in his eye, he said, ‘You’re kind of screwed up, aren’t you?’

“Well, all I can tell you is that everybody has to live with something. What you are going to have to live with is pain – but it’s not the end of the world. You’re still blessed with many things, such as movement.”

- “What do you suggest I do?”

“I suggest that you bite the bullet and live to be a hundred!” – It was the most powerful sign of hope I’d had from a doctor in a long time.

Later:p.123

“For years, people have asked me, Haven’t you prayed to the Lord for healing?

My obvious answer: “Of course.”

“Why do you think he hasn’t healed you?”

He has.

“But I thought you were still in pain.”

I am.

“I don’t understand.”

I have prayed hundreds, if not thousands, of times for the Lord to heal me – and he finally healed me of the need to be healed.

I had discovered a peace inside the pain...”