

new def: Having integrity is all about having an undivided heart... an undivided bond between you and another...
↳ Satan wants to divide Job's heart.

(TV) Ed – Lawyer / Bowling alley owner (After 50 years of TV, I think they're running out of material)
During wedding the bride doesn't really know who she wants... She's looking around the church for Ed... during the vows
↳ She has a divided heart

T>> Job understood something about his life that few Americans know... Job knew what he really wanted.... Look at how he responds to his wife...

Job 2:10 “Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”
It's the community, not the health & wealth that he wanted most.

Christianity

Christianity is supposed to be the answer to the enigmas of this world.

- ✓ Speak to the deepest issues of our souls.
- ✓ It's meant to capture our hearts and lead us into heroic love for God and his Kingdom...

(ILL) But to often churches preach a **Christianity of tips and techniques**.
3 steps for an effective quiet time
4 habits for better communication.
The ABC's of getting your children to behave... it's not bad stuff...

BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY!

- ↳ And if Christianity doesn't take your breath away, something else will.

(exercise) How many of have seen: “Gone with the Wind”, “Titanic”, “The Matrix, Beauty & The Beast / Anyone not see any of those movies?

Millions of people spent billions of dollars to go see those movies. WHY?
How do you explain the success of Titanic? **It's the longing for the Gospel.**

- ✓ We long for a story of real pursuit
- ✓ Of enduring hope, and heroic love

○ **Everyone has a longing for deep community**

We long to find something to help us explain the riddles of life. Whether it's Titanic, Shakespeare, Leonardo Davinci, or country music...

↳ Too often they move us more than the **Christianity of tips & techniques.**

(Story)

10 yr old boy wrote a letter to C.S. Lewis about the *Chronicles of Narnia*. It has a Hero named Aslan, who is the Christ figure in the form of a lion.

The boy writes “I love Aslan more than Jesus”

C.S. Lewis writes him back with great wisdom and says:

“No, all you love in Aslan is Jesus!”

“All that people are searching for in “Titanic”, “The Matrix”, and “Beauty & The Beast”... is Jesus.

T>>

What was Job holding onto? The Gospel... the good news was never preached by Jesus as the minimal entrance requirement for heaven... It was the opportunity to live in the power, presences, and love of God.

passion

For Job this was the greatest opportunity ever... God gives a little precursor of what's to come with his son... A chance to know God... to walk with Him..

It wasn't about “God will make me richer or healthier than other people... because they are following false gods... gods with no glory, no substance.

○ Friends, the gospel isn't the minimal entrance requirement for heaven.

○ **The Gospel is the invitation to live in the community of God's Kingdom**

This is our chance to be apart of the greatest story ever... God has been unfolding scene by scene, this story of supreme community, and love...

Scene One opens w/...

In the beginning – Once upon a Time. All great stories start this way.

✓ Once upon a time ... there was a land called Narnia

✓ There was a kingdom called Camelot

All good stories will follow this pattern. You know why? Because they borrow it from the true story

They do this because it's how they get their power.

For most of us our thoughts go to Genesis 1 – In the beginning

↳ But you can't start there – That's like scene 3.

T>>

If you don't understand that two scenes have come before this... then you'll never understand the book of Job.

Scene One opens in the Gospel of John.

John 1:1-3

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”

Once upon a time... before time, there was perfect love... There was the Trinity. This is the true love of the true story, it is the thing that everyone longs for.

(ILL) Don't think of God as a kind of real powerful John Wayne. The big guy all alone in the sky... or Walker, Texas Ranger...

○ **God has always existed in the deep community of the Trinity**

If God is love as John says, then there must have been something to love.

In the beginning there was a kind of love we have been searching for our whole lives... It comes out when we least expect too.

(Story)

Hand Writing On the Wall (Chicken S 6 p.161)

Mom comes home and 7 year old tattles on 5 yr old. He took his crayons and started drawing on the new wallpaper you put up in the den. She scolds the 5 yr old hiding in his closet, only to discover that He drew “I love Mommy & Daddy” with a heart around it. (She put a blank frame around it.)

We live for the memory of scene one, because when we get to Genesis and it says “We were made in the image of God”

↳ It says we were made in the image of the Trinity.

T>>

As Scene Two starts, God starts to write other actors into the story that he is already living.

He created angels... and at first, this seems really boring...

(Story)

I went through a stage in my spiritual journey where I wasn't looking forward to heaven, because every image I had of heaven and angels was... like going to “time out” only for all eternity...

(ILL)

And you never see painting of Angels with drums... it's always a harp...

- But notice, never in scripture do you read about a bored Angel...
 - ↳ We don't know a lot about Angels... but what ever it is they get to be a part of they are trilled about it... They are having a ball.

○ **Community with God is a sacred romance that thrills our soul**

Isaiah has this intense experience where he sees into the spiritual realm. The curtains part for a moment and Isaiah sees God in his throne room and he sees these angels call Seraphim

Isaiah 6:1-3

The Seraphim are saying “Holy, Holy, Holy... But check this out... they are saying it to each other...

“Holy, Holy, Holy Smokes...Do you see what I see... do you see God. It’s breath taking... It becomes an all-consuming experience.

- We’ve all had this experience... Maybe you were walking in the woods...

(Story)

A few weeks ago I saw a sunset that left me speechless... I was born in Tucson... I’ve seen more beautiful Sunsets than I can count; yet once again I was left breathless.

↳ In that moment I was wishing Angie was there, because every moment of glory is meant to be shared.

- The angels are invited into this tremendous intimacy, and they love it... at least most of them.

T>>

Lucifer wants to share in the glory, but he doesn’t want to be **best supporting actor...** He wants the story to revolve around him.

○ **Lucifer seeks to destroy our community with God**

Revelation 12:4 says he convinces a 1/3 of the angels to turn in rebellion against God

(Quote)

John Milton - Describes this epic battle between Lucifer and Michael

Milton describes Michael as defeating whole squadrons of demons with two handed sway, and when Michael sees Lucifer he stops in his war like toil and confronts Lucifer...

And says: “Author of evil, unknown until thy revolt, how has thou disturbed heaven’s blessed peace. And unto nature brought misery uncreated until the crime of thy rebellion.

T>>

After the smoke clears there are Two things that emerge:

- 1) Lucifer and his angels have been defeated. But they have been defeated by God’s power... Power is different than love... There is more that God must do... there are more scenes to follow, where the battles waged are fought with love, and the pain of humility.

Until you understand this... you can never understand that Job is a picture of what Jesus must do himself someday...

↳ That Jesus must wage a war against Lucifer with love and humility... the humility of pursuing community at the loss of everything else

- 2) A doubt has been introduced into the story that was never there before. Lucifer challenges the trustworthiness of God.

Job 2:4-5

The real accusation here is not against Job... It's against God.
 "You don't have the relationship w/ Job you think you have..."

~ "You can defeat me by the sword of Michael, but your love is **not** truly supreme as you claim, and I'll prove it."

~ "You claim a love of sacrifice... putting others before you... 'Skin for Skin' Job will **not** give his life up to be your follower..."

"If I strike his flesh and bones he'll drop you like a 3-legged camel with no hump" (Don't really know for sure if that's a bad camel or not)

- Understand, these must have been painful words for God... He was saying you're living a lie God... The relationship you think you have... has no integrity... it's a lie.

T>>

All great stories have a moment where love is tested... (chic flicks even have this moment) It's where we face crucibles of life

- **The doubts and pains we face in this world are the result of Lucifer's fighting God for our hearts and minds.**

We all face times when Lucifer works to divide our heart from God.

~ And it is in those moments... that life becomes so hard...

- ✓ It's the loss of a job
- ✓ The loss of a spouse through death, or divorce.
- ✓ It's a grown child who rejects you.
- ✓ It's a doctor's report that confirms your worst fears.

~ But it is in those moments that you will learn more... and grow more than at any other time in your life.

Irony

Here's the great irony of the story... The evil that Lucifer worked against Job in the end became his defeat...

If you are living in the crucible of life right now, you do have something to hang onto... something greater than...

- ✓ wealth... or
- ✓ power... or
- ✓ good health.

You have the very kingdom of God... You get to live out the great irony that becomes the defeat of Satan.

(Quote)

Job 42 – “My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you.”

May I pray for you.