

**JOB SERIES TWO**  
**BRUISED HEARTS OFTEN EMIT THE SWEETEST FRAGRANCE**  
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**JOB 1:12-22; 1 TIMOTHY 6:7-8; PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13**  
**(S-1583)**

Last week in Act One, Scene One we were introduced to Job.

Job is a man of unparalleled piety and well-deserved prosperity. He is a good and rich man – a fine husband and a faithful father—in wonderful health for a 60-year-old.

**SLIDE #1:** He lived in the land of Uz in the Fertile Crescent. Famous throughout the land.

Act One, Scene Two: Unbeknownst to Job, behind the scenes, God and Satan are locked in a spiritual battle. Job becomes a pawn in the battle.

“Have you considered my servant Job? None like him.” Job 1:8.

“He only serves you because you have put a hedge around him and blessed him. Lower the hedge and let me at him and he will curse you to your face.”

**SLIDE #2:** JOB 1:12: The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

“Very well, then!!!” this is not what God is supposed to say!  
Satan departs and the curtain closes on Act One Scene Two.

Now, the curtain opens and we find that Scene Three takes place back on earth.

READ JOB 1:13-19 (Read tragedies quickly – while he was still speaking...).

**SLIDE #3:** JOB 1:13-15: One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

**SLIDE #4:** JOB 1:16: While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

**SLIDE #5:** JOB 1:17: While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

**SLIDE #6:** JOB 1:18-19: While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

**SLIDE #7:** JOB 1:20: At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship

**SLIDE #8:** JOB 1:21: and said: “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”

**SLIDE #9:** JOB 1:22: In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

It's one thing to read those words of worship. It's another thing to believe it and say it.

Blessed be your name when you give. Blessed be your name when you take.

Blessed be your name at the birth of our children. Blessed be your name at their death.

Blessed be your name when they serve you. Blessed be your name when they fight with you.  
Blessed be your name when our home is full of nice things. Blessed be your name when we have  
no home.

Blessed be your name when the car is new. Blessed be your name when the car is now old.  
Blessed be your name when the market is up. Blessed be your name when the market is down.  
Blessed be your name when we all get along. Blessed be your name when we can't get along.  
Blessed be your name when we young and robust. Blessed be your name when we are young and  
struck down by cancer.

Travel back with me centuries to a date no one could name, to a place few could point to on a  
map, to a setting idyllic.

A man, who hadn't been trained to endure the loss of everything, lost everything.

A man, who was a good husband and a devoted and faithful father, a splendid businessman,  
whose life was marked by integrity, watched it all leave in one fell swoop of events.

Let's remember a man who is remembered as one who endured the loss of all—as a model for all.

Even in the Biblical days when James took up his pen to write, said,

**SLIDE #10:** “You have heard of the endurance of Job...”

ὑπομονη = “underneath alone.” “Hupemone” – “To endure under the load”. Job endured under the  
load of a loss that hit him like a ton and a half palette of bricks one after another after another  
after another—And he endured.

**SLIDE #11:** Have you noticed, “Afflictions do not come alone.”

April Dawn letter

**SLIDE #12:** Picture of Mom and Dad: Five years ago my mother had surgery for thyroid cancer,  
lost dad, more cancer, radiation, “If I had known it was going to be like this I wouldn't’ have  
bothered.” Choked on phlegm, called 911: “I never thought it might end like that. This week  
post radiation checkup, another lump in her throat.

It is not supposed to be like this.

For Job, like for many of us, there was no date, there was no warning, there was no explanation,  
there was no understanding why it happened.

We forget that Job did not know what was going on because we've read Job 1-2. We know of the  
strange, cosmic deal that was struck between God and Satan. Job knew none of it. None of it.  
He didn't know for the longest time the whole story of what was going on – maybe never.

All he knew was that one day things were great and the next day things were horrible. One day he  
was healthy and in the following hours he was sick unto death – and he never knew why.

I have found in life, that when I don't know why I am suffering, the suffering is harder.

When we can pinpoint the reason, the suffering is easier to bear. But we can't find one, certainly  
one that would not merit this kind of experience, I am like Job – at a loss – and so are you.

**SLIDE #13:** JOB 1:13: One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the  
oldest brother's house,

All the children have gone to Job Jr's. house for a little feast time together. Sons and daughters are having one great time telling family stories and laughing over recent events.

At the same time, if we were to look outside of Job's window we would see the oxen plowing the field, preparing for the next crop.

It's a sunny afternoon, a little cloud in the distance. Sheep are grazing in the fields with donkeys nearby. The camels are being made ready for the next trucking job along the caravans.

And if you listen closely through the door you could hear the prayers of a good father on his knees as he remembers one child after another by name – dads do that.

A messenger comes – knock-knock-knock – hammers on the door. Job sits up from his kneeling position in prayer and before he can get on his feet...

"The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were feeding beside them and the Sabeans attacked. No one knew they were coming and they took all the oxen and your donkeys and they slew with their swords and they cut the servants to ribbons. And I, I am the only one left to tell you..."

All of a sudden, another knock-knock-knock: "Oh Job, Job, you'll never believe this. The lightning fire of God came and burnt up the sheep and consumed all the servants who've cared for the sheep through the years, and I along have escaped to tell you and..."

Knock-knock-knock. Another comes and says, "The Chaldeans came upon us in 3 raids and took all the camels and they sliced up the servants who took care of the camels."

And before Job can catch his breath there is another knock at the door... Knock-knock-knock. Job is thinking, "At least I have my kids."

And the last messenger says, "Oh, Job, Job, listen, a tornado swept through the wilderness and it came upon the house where all the kids were and it was like it exploded on the house. And they're all dead."

(Pause and breathe)

**SLIDE #14:** Gustave Dore, famous French illustrator of the 1860s. Made 125 illustrations of the Bible for a book published in 1866.

One called, "Job Hearing of his Ruin," is almost too sacred to describe.

**SLIDE #15:** He depicts an old man with his forearm across his eyes, mouth open, a little spittle and it's the wailing cry of a daddy at the news that everything is gone – including his children.

What about his wife? She lost everything, too—and for the first time in 35 to 40 years, Mr. And Mrs. Job are childless.

**SLIDE #16:** When you read the account and come to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> verse, remember that four trembling messengers are standing there, a couple of them still bleeding from the escape,

**SLIDE #17:** you have to pause and let the grief sink in.

The only one taking delight in this scene is Satan. He and his demonic hosts are watching and waiting for the cursing to come from those lips. "He'll cave in, spoiled man that he is."

**SLIDE #18:** JOB 1:20: At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship

“At this”. How long? I don’t know. Could be there all afternoon. Could have stumbled outside to see for himself in the distance to see the house, now a shambles.

As painful as the words of the messengers were, something even worse was the silence of God. Not one word of comfort from the Heavenlies.

You’ve been there, haven’t you? No one to answer “Why?” No one can tell you the reason for the ruin.

In Hebrew, there are nine words in verse 20 which tell us what Job did—before we learn in verse 21 what Job said—And of the nine words, five are verbs.

In the Bible, pay attention to the emotion and pay attention to the verbs. They will move you through the action.

Job peeled himself off the ground. He got up.

The next verb tells of a strange thing. He tore his robe. The word for robe is a garment that fit over a loose tunic, like a dress worn below the knees. Seamless garment of Christ – gambled for it not wanting to tear it. Not finding a seam he rips it, and in the ripping of the robe he is announcing his grief and anguish.

Then the third verb – he shaved his head. The hair is always pictured in the scriptures as the glory of an individual—and the shaving of the head is a picture of the loss of glory—and every artist’s picture that shows Job following this moment shows him bald – no hair.

Then, he falls to the ground – not in a collapse of grief but for another purpose.

Look at the last verb. “Shakaw” – means “to fall prostrate in utter submission and worship.” I dare say that most of us have never worshipped on your face on the ground, the most ancient form of obeisance and submission to the father. I suggest you try this sometime – palms down, face down, knees and toes touching the ground, body fully extended, pouring out your heart in worship.

The closest I ever came was the morning after Jessie was born. Went home at 4am to sleep. Up a 7 or so. Went out side in the dirt and wept—and my dogs did not understand. “I will take whatever You want to do. I am committed to You and to Your plan.”

The only one cursing is Satan. He hated it. He hated it that Job would live through this and then worship a God who would allow this kind of suffering to happen.

There wouldn’t be one in twenty million on this earth who would do that. And he thought Job was one of the million but he didn’t realize the kind of man he was dealing with.

The wicked spirits sit with their mouths wide open as they watch a man who follows his adversities with adoration—who follows his woes with worship.

No bitterness, no cursing, no fist raised high to the heavens, saying. “How dare you do this after all that I’ve walked with you these years.” None of that.

Instead, look at what he says.

**SLIDE #19:** JOB 1:21: and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb (as he looks back to his birth), and naked I will depart (as he looks ahead to his death). The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

At birth we all come naked. At death, we all leave naked. We had nothing coming in—and we have nothing when we depart.

As we are prepared for burial, all we have is skin wrapped around bones and muscles and organs.

That's all we have – and a soul for which we must give account before our God.

Everything we have in between time is on loan.

Look at Job's perspective. "The one who gave me everything has every right to take everything away. Blessed be his name for loaning it to me while I was alive."

Get that—affluent Americans as we are. Get it when you walk through your house and see those wonderful belongings. Get it when we get behind the wheels of our cars and drive, on loan, on loan. Get it when the business falls and fails. It was on loan, when the stocks rise and the stocks fall. It was on loan.

What did you bring to this life? A naked body, and not a too good-looking one at that!

And what will you have when you leave? A naked body, and – I'll leave it at that. Just added a lot of wrinkles.

I've never seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul. You take nothing because you brought nothing. Which means you own nothing.

Listen to me. You don't even own your children. They're God's children on loan for you to take care of, rear, release, and pray for.

This is a perfect moment to pause and look at one statement Paul makes in 1 Timothy 6:7. – Look at it and go back to Job 1:21 and put it in the margin of your Bible and memorize it this week. It will help you when the interest rate goes up.

**SLIDE #20:** 1 Timothy 6:7-8: For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

I know your name is on the title. It won't be when you're gone.

I know you built that place and you're proud of it – nothing wrong with that or it being nice or having things in it. Nothing wrong with driving a fine car, we've gone over this before.

It's not about that, the problem comes when the car drives us and the possessions own us.

They never owned Job. This is the curve that he threw back into the heavens into the face of Satan. "In your face, Lucifer! I never set my love on them in the first place! And I understand that from the first until the last that they're all God's. The one who gave it all, and the one who had the right to take it all whenever He wanted, is the same God deserving of all my praise. Blessed be His name."

**SLIDE #21:** And I love the benediction. Job 1:22: "Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God."

Why blame God? This is how the world works.

When perspective returned he put his arm around his grieving, precious wife, held her close, and whispered, "God gave, and for some unrevealed reason he chose to take back. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

LET'S DRAW OFF SEVERAL APPLICATIONS WHICH ARE TO OUR PROFIT.

**SLIDE #22: BRUISED HEARTS OFTEN EMIT THE SWEETEST FRAGRANCE.**

Brie and Bronwyn used to crush up my roses in baggies. That is what some roses are for.

Nathan and ventilator cut off.

**SLIDE #23: ONE HOUR OF TRIAL GIVES MORE INSIGHT INTO THE DEPTHS OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES THAN TEN YEARS OF PROSPERITY.**

Anyone can be happy and glad when everything is going well. The real test of faith comes in the hour of the storm. How do you react when trouble comes? Do you go all to pieces or do you go to your knees and say, "Dear Lord, I know You will not fail. I know the safest place to be is in your will and plan."

**SLIDE #24: April Dawn: "Life is not measured by the breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away."**

**SLIDE #25: AFFLICTIONS WILL COME. WE MUST TRACE THE CALAMITY ULTIMATELY TO GOD.**

Why did not Job vent his wrath on the Sabeans? Why did he not blame the Chaldeans? Why did he not curse the tempest and blame the storm? Why not suspect the malice of Satan? Why not suggest that the calamity was to be traced to bad luck? None of these things occurred to Job. He traced the removal of his property and his loss of children at once to God.

When we are afflicted, we should trace the calamity ultimately to God. Storms and winds and waves, malignant spirits and people around us can do only what God permits. They are all restrained and kept within proper limits.

The events of our lives are not directed by chance. They are under the control and foresight of an intelligent God of incredible design. Go straight to Him in your dealings.

**SLIDE #26: GOD OWNS THE RIGHT TO GIVE AND TO TAKE AWAY. HOLD EVERYTHING LOOSELY.**

Ray Stedman story: Gone to place to minister, forgot dinner speech. Needed a suit to speak in. Near a funeral home, thought he might borrow a suit. Bargained and got a suit. Stood to speak and reached down to put hand in pocket and realized that cadaver suits have no pockets.

Shrouds have no pockets.

We enter the world with fists clenched as little babies. We always leave the world with hands open on our chests.

Naked, and naked, and in the interlude: "Lord God, blessed be your name for loaning me all that you've loaned me."

**SLIDE #27: GOD DOES NOT REMOVE EVERY TRIAL AND TROUBLE. HE DOES PROVIDE THE GRACE AND STRENGTH WE NEED TO LIVE THROUGH THEM.**

**SLIDE #28:** Philippians 4:10-13: I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

**SLIDE #29:** Here is the last picture I ever took of my dad alive.  
Suffered last year with cancer. Experimental drug. Went to doctor for updated report.  
“Well, Mr. Barrier. It is not working. We might as well stop using it.”  
“OK, what are we going to try next?”  
“There is no next. Nothing more we can do. No other thing we can try.”  
Watched my dad be told it was over. Go home to die.  
“Well, I guess that is it, then.” Shook his head.  
Rolled him out into hall, past nurses station, we would never pass that way again.  
Sat down to comfort him, “Well, Osh (He called me osh, it was my little boy name.) “I can do all things through Christ who strengthen me.”

And so can you.