



“Shall We Not Accept Adversity?”

Job 2:9-13

# “Shall We Not Accept Adversity?”

- Job 2:10-13 - “Then his wife said to him, Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die! 10 But he said to her, You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity? In all this Job did not sin with his lips. 11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place-Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him. 12 And when they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him, they lifted their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head toward heaven. 13 So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.”

# “Shall We Not Accept Adversity?”

- Job 14:1, 14 - “Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble... 14 If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.”

# “Shall We Not Accept Adversity?”

- Job understood that God permits adversity into our lives
- Job understood that it is a natural part of the cycle of life in this world
- Job understood that how one bears with adversity in this world determines his destiny in the world to come

# “Shall We Not Accept Adversity?”

- Adversity isn't personal. It isn't about God picking on me.
- It is about God making me a better me.
  - James 1:2-4 - “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
  - “You can't be brave if you've only had wonderful things happen to you.” (Mary Tyler Moore)
  - “Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labor does the body.” (Seneca)

# “Shall We Not Accept Adversity?”

- It is about God helping us get back on our journey to heaven
  - Heb. 12:11 - “Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”
  - “If the road is easy, you're likely going the wrong way.”  
(Terry Goodkind)

# Actualities About Adversity

- Adversity is against our will
- Adversity will come to us
  - 1Peter 4:12 - “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you”
  - Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

# Actualities About Adversity

- Heb. 11:32-38 - “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented-- 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.”

# Actualities About Adversity

- Adversity will come in different forms and magnitude
- Adversity comes quickly and unannounced
- Adversity hides the future from the present
  - 1Peter 1:6-9 - “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.”
- Adversity isn't intimidate by the fact that we are Christians

# Actualities About Adversity

- Adversity has its own adversary
- Adversity is only temporary
  - Ecc. 3:1-8
  - 2Cor. 4:17-18 - “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

# Actualities About Adversity

- Adversity is overcome by Jesus Christ
  - Rev. 17:14 - “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”
  - Col. 2:15 - “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

# Actualities About Adversity

- Adversity refines us
  - “And once the storm is over, you won’t remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won’t even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the same person who walked in. That’s what this storm’s all about.” (Haruki Murakami)
  - “The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.” (Elisabeth Kübler-Ross)

# Adversity Admonishments

- Adversity can draw us closer to or drive us further from God
- Further from (Job's wife)
  - Job 2:9 - “Then his wife said to him, Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

# Adversity Admonishments

- Closer to (Job's response)
  - Job 2:10 - "But he said to her, You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"
- Paul's response
  - 2Cor. 12:10 - "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."
- How we choose to respond determines which it will be

# Adversity Admonishments

- Adversity hurts

- 2Tim. 4:10, 14-18 - “Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica... 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. 16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom...”

# Adversity Admonishments

- “We acknowledge that life in this world is a battle and then are surprised when someone gets wounded.”  
(Robert Hicks)
- Flesh wounds heal, but scars remain; soul wounds last longer, but all wounds are healed in heaven
  - Rev. 21:4 - “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

# Adversity Admonishments

- Adversity educates
- Adversity teaches us the right priorities in life
  - Ecc. 7:3-5 - “Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. 5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise Than for a man to hear the song of fools.”

# Adversity Admonishments

- Adversity teaches us humility, our dependence on God rather than ourselves
  - 2Cor. 12:7 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”
  - 2Cor. 1:9-10 - “Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us”

# Adversity Admonishments

- Adversity requires that we seek spiritual help
- God is aware of our suffering and provides help
  - Ex. 3:7-8 - “And the LORD said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey...”
  - 2Cor. 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort”

# Adversity Admonishments

- God sends help by means of fellow Christians
  - 2Cor. 1:4 - “Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”
  - 2Cor. 7:6, 13 - “Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus... 13 Therefore we have been comforted in your comfort. And we rejoiced exceedingly more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.”

# Adversity Admonishments

- God offers help through study and prayer
  - 1Thes. 4:18 - “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”
  - Acts 27:24-25 - “Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you. 25 Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.”

# Adversity Admonishments

- God's love transcends all adversity
  - Rom. 8:35-39 - "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."