

Discouraged Lesson 7 – Job – Handout

Rebecca is still in ICU recovering from her pancreatic surgery and back in a serious state of post-op pancreatitis. Historically an enzyme elevation of this magnitude equates to the rejection of her stents. If she rejects her stents, this would lead to another surgery she would be incapable of enduring without the aid of steroids. The steroids would then again, ravage Rebecca's pancreas to create the situation we have now found ourselves in – a vicious, unending cycle.

All medical professionals are in agreement that Rebecca's damaged pancreas needs to be removed. But all said medical professionals fear whether my child can live through the necessary transplant in her current state. Especially with an unknown systemic disease.

Early this morning I was reading in the Bible about a man named Naaman. Sleep was impossible – so I resorted to 2 Kings in a last ditch effort - thinking stories of unfaithful monarchs, idolatry, and gory battles would bring my mind peace????

Don't judge – I am quite delirious these days....

I discovered that Naaman was a pagan with leprosy. He was commander of the army of the King of Aram who worshiped a god named Rimmon. Naaman suffered from a debilitating disease with no cure yet through his God-fearing Israelite slave, Naaman found healing. He encountered the prophet Elisha who gave him instructions to cure his affliction and Naaman's "flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy (2 Kings 5:14)."

But as incredible as Naaman's restorative health was – the true miracle came straight from the very disease he pleaded to be rid of. It was because of Naaman's agony

and because of his unknown affliction that he uttered the words:

"Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel (2 Kings 5:15)."

Through his physical ailment, Naaman's soul found its home.

There is no doubt that our Lord uses suffering throughout the Bible to reveal Himself. For just as the heathen Naaman found His Maker through leprosy....and Christ's power was unveiled through the man born blind....and the death of Stephan began an unstoppable evangelical movement....God is preforming wonders through Rebecca Elizabeth Taylor's disease.

I know it – I feel it – I experience it.

James 1:2–3 (NASB95)

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance

But there are moments like today I am not strong enough to want what is best for God's bigger plan.

I want my boys to have a mother who buys their school supplies, drops them off for their first day of school and tucks them in at night - but God knows that.

I want to sleep in the same bed with my husband and have a conversation that does not include a life-altering decision - but God knows that.

I want a life that exists outside of the confines of this claustrophobic hospital room - but God knows that.

I want Rebecca's disease to be defined and then eradicated -but God knows that.

And more than anything, at this particular moment, I want my daughter out of pain.

But God knows that.

So if my Lord intimately knows what my desires are and yet still allows Rebecca's affliction to rage on – then I have to learn to accept the unseen. My situation may not make sense, but it doesn't have to.

The Creator of the universe does not need my approval before He uses my daughter's illness to reveal His glory. And He is using her. Not just in the doctors, nurses, teachers, neighbors, friends and family's lives that are surrounding her – but he is using this trial to transform my life as well:

Rebecca's journey gives me great patience.

It affords me eternal perspective.

It provides unyielding hope.

A bleeding heart of compassion.

A crazy dose of empathy.

Supernatural love.

And for the first time in my life, through this suffering – I am afforded an intimate glimpse of my Savior's hand.

Whether I like it or not, the works of God are being displayed through Rebecca's disease. So that everyone who knows her will not hesitate to utter the words that Naaman did:

"Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel"

The topic of my lesson is eerily prophetic to my role as a mother these days – 'Are we willing to go where God calls us?'

Something that struck me the past few years though, is the fact that people's testimonies are given all the time – powerful, inspiring stories. But what also struck me was most are spoken in past tense – what had happened and what was overcome:

The recovered alcoholic....

The freed slave....

The now wealthy but was once poor businessman....

The cancer survivor....

These testimonials are a phenomenal reminder of our Lord's redemptive powers.

But in my 'new normal' of a life – I find much less frequent stories being told in the middle of suffering – in the epicenter of unquenchable pain.

What if we (and by that I mean me) knew – deep down - that God could use us (me) right in the center of our trial??

What if we (me) could grasp that concept in the circle of our tribulations. That we (me) could truly feel God creating something beautiful during our ugly and not just after our crazy had come and gone.

When Rebecca was diagnosed four years ago – I remember contemplating waiting. Waiting until Rebecca was well to take such a large commitment of teaching. Waiting until I was recovered from losing Annabelle. Waiting until I no longer lived in the hospital. Waiting until my boys had more stability. Waiting on life.....

And I really thought about that. Waiting would be easier, and under the circumstances, waiting would be fully acceptable.

But sometimes we are called to walk the road less traveled. Sometimes we are called to a life that is anything but easy – anything but acceptable.

I would have waited four plus years for Rebecca to be healed while wasting four plus years of sharing my intimate walk with God during my intimate time of anguish.

Van Gogh's most brilliant paintings came from the crater of depression.

C.S. Lewis' most inspirational writings came from the center of great grief.

Gustav Mahler's most melodic symphony came from his coping of a terminal illness.

John Nash's most intellectual theories came from the middle of mental illness.

What if our greatest accomplishments – our greatest works –our greatest abilities – were only accessed during our trials...

Motion sickness is the feeling you **get** when the **motion** you sense with your inner ear is different from the **motion** you visualize. It is a common condition that occurs in some **people** who travel by car, train, airplane or boat.

Job 42:5 (AMP)

⁵ I had heard of You [only] by the hearing of the ear, but now my [spiritual] eye sees You.

Job 1:1-3:

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Job 1:6–22 (NLT)

⁶ One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the LORD, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. ⁷ “Where have you come from?” the LORD asked Satan. Satan answered the LORD, “I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that’s going on.” ⁸ Then the LORD asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.” ⁹ Satan replied to the LORD, “Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. ¹⁰ You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! ¹¹ But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!” ¹² “All right, you may test him,” the LORD said to Satan. “Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don’t harm him physically.” So Satan left the LORD’s presence.

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger arrived at Job's home with this news: "Your oxen were plowing, with the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans raided us. They stole all the animals and killed all the farmhands. I am the only one who escaped to tell you." ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger arrived with this news: "The fire of God has fallen from heaven and burned up your sheep and all the shepherds. I am the only one who escaped to tell you." ¹⁷ While he was still speaking, a third messenger arrived with this news: "Three bands of Chaldean raiders have stolen your camels and killed your servants. I am the only one who escaped to tell you." ¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another messenger arrived with this news: "Your sons and daughters were feasting in their oldest brother's home. ¹⁹ Suddenly, a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and hit the house on all sides. The house collapsed, and all your children are dead. I am the only one who escaped to tell you."

²⁰ Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. ²¹ He said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The LORD gave me what I had, and the LORD has taken it away. Praise the name of the LORD!" ²² In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.

Job 3:1 Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. And Job said, "Let the day perish on which I was to be born, and the night which said, 'A boy is conceived.'

Job 3:11 "Why did I not die at birth, come forth from the womb and expire?"

Job 38:1-3 reads, "Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, 'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you, and you instruct Me!'"

Job 40:1-2 "Then the Lord said to Job, 'Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.'"

God challenged Job to answer all the questions he had posed. God didn't need to know the answer, but Job needed to admit his weakness, inferiority, and inability to even try to figure out God's infinite mind. God's wisdom was so superior, His sovereign control of everything so complete, that this was all Job needed to know. John MacArthur

Job 40:4-5 says, "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You? I lay my hand on my mouth. Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; even twice, and I will add nothing more."

Hebrews 13:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT)

¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

Philippians 3:20 (NLT)

²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

Job 42:2-6:

I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. "Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?" Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. "Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me." I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes

Job 41:11

"Who has given to Me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine."

Isaiah 14:24: The Lord of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand..."

Job 42:10-17

The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold. Then all his brothers and all his sisters and all who had known him before came to him, and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversities that the Lord had brought on him. And each one gave him one piece of money, and each a ring of gold. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys. He had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, and the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land no women were found so fair as Job's daughters; and their father gave them inheritance among their brothers. After this, Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his grandsons, four generations. And Job died, an old man and full of days.

Psalm 18:30 "As for God, His way is perfect"

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts"

Mark 9:20-24

They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. And He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!" And Jesus said to him, "'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."