

## Lessons Learned In Trouble

Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1991

### Job 1:20-22

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

I have a message today that I think will be a great benefit and blessing to many of you. I want you to listen very carefully and prayerfully to the message. I'd like very much for you to get your Bible and follow along as I read the scripture. I'm going to be speaking from the First Chapter of Job. This is the title of the message: "Some Lessons Learned In Trouble." There are some lessons to be learned in time of trouble.

Those who believe on Christ, (all true believers), have many things in common. The Bible talks about the common salvation. We have a common salvation; we are all saved by the grace of God through faith in the blood of Christ. No matter where you find believers in America, England, Mexico or Australia, they have a common salvation.

Also, the Bible speaks about a common faith. *"There is just one faith, one Lord, one baptism, one God, one Father and one body."* This is a common faith. Everyone who knows the Lord has the same faith. They may not have the same degree of faith, necessarily, but they do have the same object of faith, which is Christ Jesus.

Another thing that we have in common is trouble. We have troubles and trials and tribulations. Listen to the scripture in First Corinthians 10, verse 13. *"There's no trouble or trial upon you but such as is common to men."* Troubles and trials are common and are to be expected. You have no trouble or no trial but that which is common to believers everywhere.

We have a common salvation and a common faith. We share this together too, common troubles. Listen; *"God is faithful who will not allow you be tried above that you are able, but will with the trial, also make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it."* There is no trouble or trial upon you but such is common to believers everywhere.

Our Lord said to these 12 disciples, before He went to the cross, and before He ascended back to the Father; *"In this world you shall have trouble and tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*

Paul wrote in Second Corinthians 1, listen to this; *“Blessed be the God of all comfort, the Father of all mercies who comforts us in our trouble. The Father is the God of comfort and mercies who comforts us in our trouble that we may be able to comfort those which are in trouble.”*

Many of our troubles are to help us to comfort others who have the same troubles. David said this; *“It’s been good for me that I have been afflicted.”* That’s right, it is good for me that I have been afflicted.” The apostle Paul said, *“I glory in my infirmities and in my sufferings for Christ.”*

In Second Corinthians Four: verses 8 and 9, the apostle wrote this; *“We are troubled on every side but we are not distressed. We are perplexed but we are not in despair. We are persecuted, but we are not forsaken. We are cast down but we are not destroyed.”* Now, do you understand that?

I’ve read to you many scriptures concerning the believer and troubles. There are many false preachers and many others who tell believers that they will not have troubles, and they will not have suffering, sickness or sorrow. These preachers are not telling the truth. The scripture says; *“There’s no trouble or trial upon you but such as is common to all believers.”* Our Lord said, *“In this world you shall have trouble and tribulation.”* Our God is the God of comfort and the God of mercies.

All of you are familiar with the troubles and great trials of Job. I know you are familiar with it; I’ve brought many messages from the Book of Job. I believe the reason that the Lord allowed Job to be so troubled and so afflicted, was so that he could be an example to us in our troubles and in our sorrows and trials.

Job was greatly troubled and Job was greatly afflicted. He was a man that endured much sorrow, pain and suffering. It says here, in the Fifth Chapter of James, verse 10, that he is an example for us; *“My brethren, take the prophets who have spoken in the name of the Lord for an example of suffering affliction and of patience.”* These prophets are an example to us. These men suffered affliction and they showed great patience in time of affliction and suffering. This is an example and this is what is being said; *“Take these men for an example. Behold, we count them happy who endure, who continue in the faith, even during troubles and trials.”*

You’ve heard of the patience of Job. I’m sure you have seen the blessings of the Lord upon him. *“The Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercies.”* Yes, Job was a man that

was greatly afflicted and greatly troubled. But, after it was all over and he had patiently endured, with the hand of God upon him, he was greatly blessed.

Job was a man who knew God. Job was a believer. I don't have any problem with that. God called him, "*My servant.*" I hear about people who debate the conversion of Job. They debate over when he was converted and so forth. Right at the very outset, the Lord God said; "*Have you considered My servant Job? He is a man who fears God and hates evil.*" That is a pretty good testimony concerning this man, Job.

In Chapter 19, Job says this; "*I know that my redeemer liveth.*" Job believed in the Redeemer. Yet, Job was greatly troubled and greatly afflicted. He was tried, really, as few believers have ever suffered in this world. There are very few believers who have ever suffered like this man Job.

He was the servant of God and the child of God. He was the son of the Redeemer. Yet, he suffered as few men have ever suffered. He lost his entire family. You can read that in Job, Chapter 1. He had ten children and they were all killed at one time.

Job lost his wealth. He was a wealthy man. All of it was taken away in a moment. He lost his influence, and his position. Men ridiculed him and made fun of him. He was a man of great influence and power. After this affliction and trial came upon him, no one cared for him. Even his wife turned to him and said; "*Why don't you curse God and die? Why do you continue to maintain your integrity, just curse God and die?*"

Job lost his health. He became a man not only afflicted in mind, and heart, but in body. He didn't try to hide his sorrows. Let me try to tell you something here; Job didn't try to hide his sorrows. I hear people talking about suffering in silence. That is not necessarily so. Job was very open about his troubles. He was very open about his sorrows. He wept and grieved openly. He didn't try to hide them.

You know; we sorrow. Don't be afraid to cry. Don't be afraid to share your troubles and sorrows with others. Job complained about his sufferings, but he didn't complain against God. He spoke about his sufferings and he spoke about his trials. He never did speak against God. He openly talked about his troubles and about his sorrows and his sufferings. We believers sorrow; "*But not as those who have no hope.*"

Listen, if you have your Bible, open to Job 1:20. His children were gone, his health was gone, his wealth was gone, and his friends were gone. When all this took place, it says here, in Job 1:20; "*Then Job arose and rent his mantle.*" He tore his cloak or clothes. This was a mark of great sorrow. "*He shaved his head and fell down upon the ground*

*and worshipped God.” He said; “Naked I came out of my mother’s womb and naked I shall return. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. And, in all this Job did not sin or charge God with foolishness. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”*

Sorrow and trouble ought to lead to worship. Sorrow and trouble should lead us to praise God. If we are happy, praise God or if we are sorrowful, praise God. Like I said, Job spoke against his pain but he didn’t speak against God nor did he speak against his sorrow. He had a lot to say about the sorrow that had overcome him and flooded him. The sorrow had broken him. *“In all this, he never charged God with foolishness.”* He never spoke against the providence of God.

Job never compared his lot with others. Listen to this; *“Job wept openly.”* He was in great trouble and sorrow. His heart was broken. His body was in extreme pain. He let folks know about it. He talked things over with his friends who came to comfort him. He never spoke against God and he never spoke against the good providence of God. *“Job never charged God with foolishness.”* He never compared his lot with others. He said, *“Naked I came into this world and naked I will leave this world and God gave to me and God has taken away from me and blessed be the name of the Lord.”*

He never made the mistake of comparing his lot with others. He didn’t ask the question, “Why did you do this to me and not to him?” David did that. That’s right! In Psalm 73, read it some time. There is a bad mistake and God in His good providence and His sovereignty and purpose, has recorded that Psalm. David complains because he was afflicted and other people weren’t. God taught him a lesson. He took him down to the sanctuary and taught him a lesson. David said, *“I was dumb as a beast. I acted so ugly in your presence, O Lord.”* That is Psalm 73, if you want to read it sometime.

I want to show you several things that I believe that Job learned during this time of great trouble and sorrow. I think we will learn more at that time than what we learn in times of blessings and happiness. These are lessons that we need to learn. These are lessons that Job learned and that we need desperately to learn. Will you listen to me and think about these three or four things?

First of all, Job learned a lot in this time of sorrow and time of great trial and suffering. Some of you are going through some deep water right now. You are having bad experiences and the hand of God is heavy upon you. You are suffering and your heart is broken and your body is in pain. You may even be in the sunset years of your life. Job learned some things in his time of trouble. Let’s see if we can learn them.

The first thing that Job learned was this: He learned the brevity and frailty of this life on earth. Here was a man in good health. Here was a man with a wife and ten children. Here was a man that was wealthy. He had everything that a man could possibly want. Suddenly, just like that, all ten children were dead. It appeared that he would soon die. He was covered over with boils from head to foot. His health was gone. In fact, his friends came to see him and they didn't even recognize him. He was so afflicted and so disfigured and swollen, they didn't even recognize him.

He began to talk about the brevity of life. He began to talk about death. He said, "*In a few years I shall go the way from which I shall not return.*" He learned this in this time of trouble. In Job Chapter 7, he said this: "*My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle.*" Do you know what a weaver's shuttle is? When I go to Mexico, we watch the weavers. They weave rugs, blankets and other things. That shuttle is almost faster than your eye. They put in the rolls of colored thread. This is what Job is saying; "*My days on earth are faster than a weaver's shuttle.*" He said; "*My days on earth are like the wind.*" James said, "*My days are like the vapor.*"

In Chapter 9:25, Job says; "*My days are swifter than a post.*" That is the mail carrier, the person who rode a horse or some kind of animal that delivered the mail. He would ride with the mail to a certain point, get a fresh horse, and then ride to another point for another fresh horse. "*My days are swifter than a post, they flee away. My days pass away as a swift ship driven by the wind. My days pass away as an eagle, hasteth to the prey.*" That is what he has learned. He has learned that in the death of his children and in the loss of his health and this great affliction that this life doesn't last long.

He said here; "*A man that is born of a woman and is of a few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and He is cut down. He fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. The number of his months is with God.*" The number of his what is with God? The answer is the, "*Number of his months is with God.*"

Why do we have to wait for sickness to learn this? Why do we have to wait for sorrow and trouble to learn this that life is so fleeting? "*It is appointed unto men once to die.*" Life is short and brief. Life at it's longest is just a few days. Why do we have to wait until we are in the hospital full of cancer or heart trouble? Why do we have to wait until we are standing over the dead form of a loved one? Why do we have to wait to find out that this is expected? This is the lot of all the sons of Adam. We are going to die. "*So, teach me to number my days that I may apply my heart to wisdom.*"

What kind of wisdom is he talking about? The answer is to seek the Lord and to call upon Him. We're to believe His Word. We need to find our way into the scriptures and

to seek the way of God. Moses of old, asked three things that every one of us ought to be considering right now; “Lord, show me Your way. Lord, go with me. If you don’t go with me, don’t let me go. Thirdly, Show me your glory.” We need to know His way, we need to have His presence and to behold His glory. Why do we wait?

Some of you are sitting out there listening to me. Some of you have white hair. Your days are far spent. The sun is setting and it is the end of the road. The sand is almost gone out of the upper chamber of the hourglass. What are we waiting on? Job learned the brevity of life.

There is something else that he also learned. Secondly, Job also learned the vanity of earthly possessions. Job, at one time, was a very wealthy man. He was one of the wealthiest men of that area. He had great earthly possessions. Now, just so quickly, he had nothing, it was all gone! He was sick, sorry and empty. He used the word, naked. He said; “*Naked I came out of my mother’s womb.*” I came into this world naked and this is how I am going to leave this world.

When a man is born, what does he possess? The answer is nothing. When a man dies, what does he possess? The answer is, nothing. Then, everything he possesses here, is temporary, isn’t that right? This is all vanity. That is the conclusion that Solomon finally came to, finally; “*Vanity of vanities, it is all vanity.*” Paul said later, “*The fashion of this world fadeth away.*”

I had one brother. My brother was a brilliant, brilliant, young man. He went to the Navel Academy during World War II. He went to the Merchant Marine Academy and after the war; he received a commission from WestPoint. He climbed rapidly in the Service. He was Lieutenant, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel. He was in all of the theaters. He was in NATO and was in all these special places. He was recommended for Brigadier General. When a plane landed and he was on the plane, all the people stayed seated until the Colonel got off. He was on top of the world. He had possessions, fame, influence, power, and a Battalion Commander. He was 48 years of age and he died.

As far as I know, he had no spiritual interest. I couldn’t tell if he did. Far as I know, he didn’t have any interest in the gospel or any interest in God. Where are all of these things? They are gone. They were here for the moment, a very brief moment and then they are gone. Can you tell me why we don’t learn that? Job learned it, he said; “*Naked I came into this world and naked I will be leaving it.*”

I will tell you what we need to learn. We need to learn that we don't have to leave this world naked. That's right! We can leave this world rich in grace. We can leave this world rich in faith. We can leave this world with an inheritance in glory. I came into this world broke, but I'm not leaving it broke. I've got treasures in glory. *"I've got an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, that fadeth not away and is reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God."* That's right!

I came into this world naked and came into this world as the son of Adam. I'm fallen and depraved. I'm leaving this world clothed in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. He said; *"He that believeth on Him shall never be ashamed, shall never be found naked."* Why don't we learn that?

There is no use for me pushing this pulpit back and walking up in front of here ranting and raving. I may even take my coat off and sweat, yell, holler and do all these silly contortions. What you need my friend, is to hear God's Word. You need to hear the truth of God about these important matters. That is what you need to hear.

Preachers are entertaining. They are acting foolishly. They are claiming powers that they don't have. They are drawing disciples after themselves. They are building great monuments to their own names. People have got to learn some things. They need to learn who God is. They need to learn who they are. They need to learn the brevity and frailty of life. They need to learn the vanity of all of these possessions. They are not worth anything.

Then, Job learned this, he found out and saw the hand of God in all that he suffered. You listen to me here! Many people read this passage and they read about Satan appearing before the Lord accusing Job. God said, *"Have you considered my servant Job?"* A lot of people will say that Satan afflicted Job and that Satan took away his possessions and children. That is not so! Job knew better than that. Job said; *"The Lord giveth and the Lord hath taken away."*

You see; my friend, Satan can't do anything without God's permission. You don't have to fear Satan. Don't be afraid of them that kill the body, fear God. *"The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord."* Satan had to have permission to touch Job. Satan cannot or even the devil, demons or any other evil spirit cannot touch one of God's elect, one of God's sheep or one of God's children without His permission.

He couldn't touch Peter without God's permission. Our Lord said that to Peter, He said; *"Peter, Satan hath desired thee that he might sift thee as wheat."* He can't touch you; you are a child of God. Satan can't touch you. He doesn't send the wind and the rain,

God does. He doesn't send the storm, God does. He doesn't send the trouble, God does. *"God is the first cause of all things."*

Job didn't curse the wind that killed his children. Job didn't curse the Sabeans who stole his cattle. Job didn't curse the Chaldeans who brought this evil his way. He said, *"God willed it. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."* Anything that happens in a believer's life happens by the will of God. Things happen for God's glory and for our good.

When the two sons of Eli died, do you know what he said? *"It's the Lord, let Him do what seemeth Him good."* My friends, Satan is defeated. He met Christ and Christ conquered him. Christ destroyed his power. He can't touch you. Do you understand that? Job knew that.

All of these preachers say; "Well, the devil sure has gotten a hold of him." They don't know what they are talking about. Almighty God gave these demons, this Satan, this wind, the permission to afflict Job. This was for Job's good and for our example and for God's glory. *"The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away."*

Then, last of all, Job learned this; He not only learned that God is the first cause of all things, he learned to give thanks during the greatest trial. What did Job do when they came to him with all of this bad news? *"Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped."* Job said, *"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."*

Then the scripture says of Job, *"In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."*

Here is the key in First Thessalonians 5:18; *"In everything give thanks, this is the will of God for you."* This is a lesson learned in trouble. Are we learning? Are we good students? Are we like Job? Can we praise the Lord at all times?