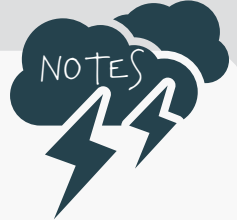




SESSION

2

THE STORY OF
JOB & GOD



1. I have a VERY high pain tolerance.
2. I would rather be tortured, than to have to watch my loved ones tortured.
3. Just like Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, once we pass Satan's temptations, he leaves us alone for a while.
4. Nagging is just advice flavored with a heavy dose of real world experience.
5. God could stop Satan's attacks any time we ask him to.



Read JOB 2:1-8

WHEN TRIALS BECOME PERSONAL

V. 4: "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life."

- Satan has accused the Lord of keeping a protective hedge around Job. Here he suggests that Job's wealth was like a shield or garment of leather over his human skin. He implies that Job was not hurt by these dreadful calamities because all he cared about was himself.

∞ What is it about Job that kept his perspective of God accurate even during the trials brought about by Satan?

V. 5: "But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

- The first round was not a true test, because the adversary had not been permitted to hurt Job himself (1:12). Now Satan dares the Lord to injure the inner skin, for the outer skin was only scratched by the loss of wealth and family. If Job's body, his bone and his flesh, feels the touch of God, he will show his real character by open cursing of God himself. Satan wished Job to be diseased totally, thoroughly racked with pain, and plagued in every physical dimension. Later Elihu said, "His flesh wastes away to nothing, and his bones, once hidden, now stick out" (33:21).

∞ Why do you think God allowed Satan to take Job's trials to the next level by allowing Satan to harm Job's body?

- What is it about personal illness and tragedy that drives a wedge between us and a full relationship with God?

Read JOB 2:9,10

WHEN PERSONAL ATTACKS DON'T WORK...BRING IN REINFORCEMENTS

V. 9 & 10: *“Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!”* - When Job’s wife urged him to forget his integrity (related to the word “blameless” in 1:1), curse God and (as a result) die, he called her a *foolish* (nābāl, “spiritually ignorant or nondiscerning”) woman. Unknown to her, this advice that he curse God was exactly what Satan had twice predicted Job would do (1:11; 2:5). When Job needed comfort from her, he received another terrible blow—evidence of *her* bitterness toward God. In calm confidence in God’s ways Job pointed out that *trouble* (rā’, “evil, calamity”) as well as good comes from God (cf. Ecc. 7:14; Lam. 3:38). **This contrasts starkly with most peoples’ view that trouble means God’s very existence is questionable!** Later Job affirmed to his friends that he would retain his integrity till death (Job 27:5).

His wife thinks God has treated Job badly, and deserves a curse; Job finds nothing wrong with what has happened to him. At this point Job’s trial enters a new phase, the most trying of all. Instead of helping, the words of his wife and of his friends cause him more pain and put him under more pressure than all the other things that have happened to him so far. He never curses God, but all his human relationships are broken.

∞ How have you seen the devil use your closest relationships--even without them realizing it--to bring discouragement to you during your trials?

- How has God made Himself present at those times?

GOD?...ARE YOU STILL THERE?

This is a hard lesson for some believers to learn, especially if they feel they have been promised health and wealth or have misunderstood that God’s wonderful plan for their lives involves only pleasantness and not trouble. Believers on this side of the cross have many more examples from both the Bible and church history of God’s people who have suffered. Job was much more in the dark. Yet out of that darkness his strong belief in the sovereignty of God shone forth all the more brilliantly. Somehow he already knew that the clay does not ask the potter, *“What are you making?”* (Isa 45:9). Job acted as though he had read 2 Cor 4:17, *“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”*

∞ What do you think God is doing by allowing Satan’s trials and calamities into your personal life?

- What does it say about God’s character that he doesn’t stop Satan’s attacks on your life?

1. How much of my suffering is a direct attack on my life and my body?
2. What attacks and trials am I allowing to drive a wedge between me and God?
3. How does this help to clarify my understanding of God’s character?

