

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

JOB – A MAN WITH CHARACTER AND CONSISTENCY

JOB 1

Text: Job 1:5

Job 1:5

*⁵ And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. **Thus did Job continually.***

Introduction:

We read in Proverbs 20:6:

Proverbs 20:6

⁶ Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

In the book of Job we find the answer to that question.

Job was a faithful man.

The first five verses of the book are filled with life-changing principles.

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. THE INTEGRITY OF JOB

Job 1:1

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

We are introduced to a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz.

Job is not an imaginary person or part of a fairy tale.

He was a real person.

James talked about Job in the New Testament holding him up to us an example of patience.

James 5:11

*¹¹ Behold, we count them happy which endure. **Ye have heard of the patience of Job**, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

Also Ezekiel referred to Job, pointing out his righteousness.

Ezekiel 14:14

¹⁴ Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 14:20

²⁰ Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

Job lived in the land of Uz, (not Oz).

Job's name is interesting. It means "persecuted, afflicted, hated, or treated as an enemy."

Satan treated Job as an enemy and did what he could to afflict Job.

By the way Satan's mission hasn't changed.

He continues to afflict God's people today.

He's searching for people to hurt and destroy.

Paul warned us about this.

See 1 Peter 5:8

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

The word “devour” means to gulp down.

Satan hated Job because he was of integrity and with consistent character.

Notice:

A. The Reality of His Character (vs. 1)

Job 1:1

¹ *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man **was perfect** and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.*

The Bible uses the word perfect but Job was not sinless.

The word perfect means to be complete, one who lacks nothing in physical strength and beauty; having moral integrity, honesty, and purity; to be blameless and without blemish.

Job desired to please God with his life.

By being right with God, Job was right with himself.

In other words, Job had a clear conscience and was not going through life with guilt, remorse, and regret.

He was right with God and he was right with men

Paul had a similar desire.

Acts 24:16

¹⁶ And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Consideration:

Is everything right between you and God and you and other men?

Is your heart clean and pure before the Lord?"

Realize, He can see it and He knows what is going on in your life.

May we endeavor to be perfect, complete, pure, and blameless before God and men.

When people look at us, may they not have any cause to point their fingers at us and say, "You wronged me.

You're a fake.

You're a hypocrite.

You did not keep your word.

Paul issued that same challenge in the book of Philippians.

Philippians 2:15

¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Note not only the Reality of His Character but also:

B. His Relationship with Others

Job 1:1

*¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and **upright**, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.*

Job was upright.

The word upright means to be straight, level, correct, straightforward, and righteous.

This word emphasized his relationship with other people.

Job was straight, not bent and not crooked. He treated people right.

His honesty and straightness brought blessing into his life because people trusted him.

His actions pleased God and they pleased other people that had to do business with him.

Illustration:

When a carpenter is looking for tools to build, he looks for wood that is straight.

He uses levels, compasses, protractors, and plumb bobs that are straight in order to get accurate readings in his measurements.

God is not any different.

He will use in a greater way a person that is upright, straight, and true more so than a person that is crooked, inconsistent, and unreliable.

Thought:

Are you straight or crooked?

The psalmist pointed out the importance of an upright man and the blessings that result from behaving this way.

Psalm 37:37

³⁷ Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.

Psalm 25:21

²¹ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Illustration:

An upright man is like a level road – it's calm and smooth.

He exercises self-control and is gentle in his treatment of others.

The fact that he is level indicates he is balanced in his life.

He knows when to be firm and when to be gentle.

He weighs circumstances and his decisions carefully before implementing them.

Like a straight road in which you can see far into the distance because it is not blocked by obstacles or

curves, the straight person is out in the open and easy to view.

In other words, he is transparent and open, not a fake.

His life is not concealed like sharp curves that may create surprises around the corner or bumps that cause one to stumble.

His life is not a stumbling block.

Understand the Importance of Integrity

Doing what was right was a part of Job's character. He would not give up or quit as he was consistent in character.

We can learn much from him, especially those those who have quit serving the Lord.

Why do people quit doing that which is right?

There are several reasons:

- Frustration and being Flustered with an Inability to Complete a Task
- Friends Opinion Can Pressure People Into Discouragement or Disappearance (Quitting)

- Filled Schedules or Being Too Busy To Get Done What Needs To Be Done
- Fun and Enjoyment is the Bases of Service Instead of Faithfulness
- Funds Are Depleted
- Failure Destroys Enthusiasm
- Faith is Weak

All of these things can result in people getting discouraged or even quitting.

Note not only the Reality of His Character and his Relationship with Others but also:

C. His Reverence for God (vs. 1)

Job 1:1

*¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and **one that feared God**, and eschewed evil.*

Job feared God.

What does that mean?

The word does not mean he was terrified by God.

On the contrary, Job was very close to the Lord and had great love for God.

The word “feared” means to have great reverence and respect; to be in awe of someone.

Much of the frivolity that exists among unsaved people as well as carnal Christians today is attributed to a lack of reverence and respect for God.

There is no fear of God because of arrogant attitudes, pompous pride, stubborn wills, and selfishness.

There are many Christians in our day that profess to fear God, but their attitudes and actions portray a much different message.

When you live like Job, you have a fear or reverence for God.

That reverence for God will take precedence over any fear of man.

The Bible give a list of blessings and benefits for having reverence for God.

Note:

- It Leads to Rationale That is Wise

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs 15:33

³³ The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

- It Leads to a Relationship With the Lord and Knowing Him

Proverbs 2:5

⁵ Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

- It Brings a Revulsion and Departure From Evil

Proverbs 8:13

¹³ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Proverbs 16:6

⁶ By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

A fear of God and fooling around with sin do not go hand in hand.

They cannot co-exist.

- It Leads to Rejuvenated Health and Long Life

If you want to have a great health care plan, then make sure that part of your plan is a respect and reverence for God Almighty.

Proverbs 9:10-11

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. ¹¹ For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

Proverbs 10:27

²⁷ The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Proverbs 14:27

²⁷ The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Proverbs 19:23

²³ The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

Proverbs 3:7-8

⁷ Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. ⁸ It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

- It Leads to Refuge or Security

Proverbs 22:4

⁴ By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

Proverbs 28:14

¹⁴ Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

Job was one of the wealthiest men of his time. God prospered him because of his reverence for the Lord.

Thought:

We don't fear or reverence the Lord for the benefits as He deserves our reverence, but He benefits those that reverence Him.

- It Leads to Rejoicing and Praise From Family and Friends

Proverbs 31:30

³⁰ Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

- Its Roots are Found in a Godly Heart

Proverbs 14:2

² *He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.*

Do you have a godly heart?

We have considered the character of Jon and have considered three areas: Reality of His Character His Relationship with Others and His Reverence of God.

Note also:

D. His Revulsion for Evil

Job 1:1

*¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and **eschewed evil.***

One of the reasons Job had so much character is because he had a revulsion for wickedness. The word “eschewed” means to depart, to avoid, to remove, to put away, to abolish or reject.

Job did not want to have anything to do with that which was wrong or sinful.

He avoided wickedness like the plague.

Perhaps, this is why we are reading about him in our day.

A person that has a love for God and a reverence for Him will have the same attitude.

Like Job, we should avoid evil, avoid evil places, avoid running around with wicked people, and don't speak evil with your mouth.

We'll close today considering briefly How Does a Person Learn to Hate Evil Like Job?

- Realize the Destruction the Results Form Indulging In Evil

Sin does not build up a person. It tears him down. It does not promote freedom, instead it leads to bondage.

- Remember the Distress From Past Mistakes and the Guilt Associated With Them

Many face deep depression over the regrets of their past.

David said:

Psalm 51:3

³ For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Isaiah said:

Isaiah 57:21

²¹ There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

- Recognize the Damage that Wickedness Causes in the Lives of Others

When we witness the woes and worries of others created by their waywardness and wickedness, we will learn to hate evil.

Close:

We have considered four thoughts regarding the Character of Job.

- The Reality of His Personal Condition: "Perfect"
- His Relationships with Others: "Upright"
- His Reverence for the Lord: "One that Feared God"
- His Revulsion for Evil: "Eschewed Evil"

These things help him to Stand Fast.

These too will help us Stand Fast.

Lord willing we will consider Job's Influence and His Influence This Evening.

Are these things we have considered today present in your life today?