

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

JOB – A MAN WITH CHARACTER AND CONSISTENCY (PT. 2)

JOB 1

Text: Job 1:2-3, 5

Job 1:2-3

² And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. ³ His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

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 LUCRE OF JOB (VS. 2-3)

Job 1:2-3

² And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. ³ His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Job had a large family and he had great wealth.

The Bible gives us a glimpse into his wealth.

We are told he had:

- 7000 sheep
- 3000 camels
- 500 yoke of oxen
- 500 she asses

He is summarized as a man that was the greatest of all men of the east.

When we consider the livestock he owned we also need to consider the property it would take to keep such a large number of animals.

I looked up some information on the acres need to keep these animals.

It recommended that a donkey or mule have two acres.

- The land needed to keep Job's she asses would have been 1000 acres.
- The land needed to keep Job's sheep would have needed to be 83 acres. (6 per acre)

The land needed for the oxen would 750 acres.

So not only did Job have several livestock, he also would have had several acres for his livestock.

Job was not only a great man but more importantly he was a godly man that had been financially blessed by God.

Understand:

Being wealthy is not sinful.

Some have an idea that to be godly one must be poor.

That is nothing but false humility.

Abraham was another man of God that was financially successful.

He put God first in his life, and God prospered him.

The problem that many Christians face today is they do not know how to handle money.

Unfortunately, for some Christians, as they prosper financially they drift further away from God.

They purchase things or get involved in activities that take them away from the Lord and hurt their testimony for Christ.

Their money becomes more important than their relationship with Christ.

It is the passion or love for wealth that is wrong, not the wealth itself.

Note Psalms 62:10; 1 Timothy 6:10

Psalm 62:10

¹⁰ Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

1 Timothy 6:10

¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Understand:

Money is a tool for blessing.

As you become a channel to distribute to the needs of others and invest in the Lord's work, you will find that God will entrust you with more so you can be a greater blessing to others.

His promise to us is He will prosper you as you give to Him.

Malachi 3:10

¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Luke 6:38

³⁸ Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Proverbs 3:9-10

⁹ Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: ¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Job honored God with his possessions and God filled his barns.

We have considered the Lucre of Job.

Note also:

2. THE LEADERSHIP OF JOB (VS. 4-5)

Job 1:4-5

⁴ And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. 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.

The brothers and sisters among Job's children were evidently close with one another.

They regularly feasted together on one another's birthdays.

This is the meaning of the phrase "everyone his day."

When the feast was completed, Job would send for his children and sanctify them by making offerings to the Lord for each child just in case any of them may have done something wrong or cursed God in their hearts.

Job followed this practice consistently and continually. In fact, the word "continually" comes from a Hebrew word which means to be hot.

The idea is of a person that works at something continually and becomes hot and sweaty from toil.

Job was hot – he was on fire for God.

Job was trying to stress to his children that spiritual success was much more important than financial success.

He was trying to show his kids that their relationship with God was far more important than material things or possessions.

The spiritual welfare of his children was of great importance to him.

Thought:

Can we say the same when it comes to our children?

Sadly many parents have their children involved in this program and that program leaving little or no time for the things of God.

I'm not against children playing sports or being involved in the boy or girl scouts, but understand there needs to be more time given to God and His work than these programs.

There should be no question in the minds of your children what the priority is.

Also parents involve themselves in less important things which take them from the work of God.

All this says to your children is God and His work is the priority in your life.

Is it important that your children be in church and are learning about the Lord?

Are you doing your best to be a good example to them and to point them to Christ?

Don't let your kids grow up being strangers to Jesus Christ and the preciousness of the Bible.

Job made the spirituality of his children the prominent matter of concern.

Job was a man with Character and Consistency.

He wasn't a yo-yo Christian – up one day and down the next.

Note Psalms 55:17

Psalm 55:17

17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Illustration:

The story is told that, as Alexander the Great reviewed his troops one day, and one of his soldiers slouched a bit.

"What's your problem?" Alexander asked him.

The soldier explained that he had been out on the town the night before.

"What's your name?" Alexander asked.

"Alexander," the soldier answered.

The general said, "Either change your conduct or change your name."

Alexander was concerned about the conduct of one that bore the same name as his.

We too, should be concerned about having a good name and conducting ourselves properly.

Our goal should be to live with Christlike consistency.

Note Titus 2:7 and Matthew 5:16

Titus 2:7

⁷ In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Matthew 5:16

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

When we are up one day and down the next, all the time, when we are living in a Christlike manner one day, and then acting like the Devil on another, we create confusion in the minds and hearts of those without Christ.

Our inconsistency turns people off toward the Lord and hurts our reputation and our credibility to minister to them.

Understand:

The world has a higher standard for Christians than what believers have for themselves.

The unsaved may not know Christ, but they do expect Christians to act like Him consistently.

The reason that we struggle with inconsistency is we often try to serve two masters.

We try to serve the Lord and this world or ourselves at the same time.

We have not made up our mind to serve Christ and this makes us inconsistent and unstable.

Note:

Matthew 6:24

²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

James 1:8

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Note some areas that consistency is a must.

- In Purity

1 Peter 1:15

¹⁵ *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*

1 Peter 2:11-12

¹¹ *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;* ¹² *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

Titus 2:12

¹² *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

- In Praise and Reverence of the Lord

Psalm 35:27

²⁷ *Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.*

Psalm 40:16

¹⁶ Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

Psalm 70:4

⁴ Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified.

Hebrews 13:15

¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Illustration:

There was a young man named Thomas.

At 16, he wanted to be a teacher, but soon changed his mind.

He next decided to seek his fortune in the West Indies, but aborted his plans just before boarding his ship.

He then tried one thing after another, but couldn't find his niche.

Traveling down to London, he drifted around town looking for work and finding none.

Giving his last coin to a beggar, he was reduced to poverty himself.

But Thomas was a Christian, born to praying, Scottish parents, and the Lord brought news to his ears about a job as a publisher's apprentice.

Thomas checked it out, and there he found his calling. He had always loved Christian books, and now he discovered pleasure in printing them.

He started weekly Bible clubs in London, sharing the gospel by both print and voice.

He prospered and soon saved enough to return home to open a used bookshop.

Soon he was publishing his own materials, aiming them toward the masses, seeking to provide affordable Christian literature for an eager readers.

Eventually his teenage sons joined the business, and by 1853 Thomas Nelson and Sons had become the largest publishing house in Scotland.

The next year, Thomas, Jr. sailed to New York to open an office there, making Nelson the first British publisher to establish a branch in America.

Today, over 200 years later, Thomas Nelson is the largest publisher of Bibles and Christian literature in the world.

When Nelson was informed that he was dying, he was unmoved.

When he was informed he said, "I thought so.

My days are wholly in God's hands.

He doeth all things well. His will be done!"

Then picking up the Bible by his bed, he said, "Now I must finish my chapter."

Nelson had learned the importance of being consistent in his praise for the Lord even when informed that death was near.

We need to be consistent in Purity and Praise but also:

- In Patience

1 Peter 2:23

²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

2 Timothy 2:24

²⁴ And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

James 5:8

⁸ Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Understand there will be trials in this life, but also understand:

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- In Prayer

Psalms 55:17

¹⁷ Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

1 Peter 4:7

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

Romans 12:12

¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Ephesians 6:18

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Colossians 4:2

² Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

1 Thessalonians 5:17

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

Illustration:

According to an old story, some preachers were discussing 1 Thessalonians 5:17 one morning, but couldn't agree on its meaning.

An old cleaning woman, scrubbing on her knees, raised up and ventured an opinion about this verse.

She said, "When I go to bed at night, I thank the Lord for the joy of resting in His everlasting arms.

When I awaken, I ask Him to open my eyes to behold new things from His Word.

When I build the fire, I ask Him to kindle love in my heart.

When I bathe, I ask Him to cleanse me from secret faults.

When I eat, I thank Him for my food.

As I walk to work, I pray to be led in paths of righteousness.

As I pass the church, I pray for my pastor. While scrubbing these floors, I ask Him to wash the hearts of those walking above me with His precious blood..."

And on she went. She had a pretty good understanding of that verse and knew just as much as those preachers.

She knew the importance of consistency in prayer.

- In Perusing the Scripture

1 Peter 2:2

² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Acts 17:11

¹¹ These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Psalm 1:2

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 119:97

⁹⁷ O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

The reason many believers are inconsistent in serving the Lord is because they are distracted by the cares of this world.

Illustration:

When an ocean liner sank along the Irish coast many years ago, the maritime world was bewildered.

Because the ship's captain was an excellent seaman, no one could figure out what caused this terrible accident?

What in the world happened?

Divers were sent down into the water. One of the items they recovered and examined was the compass of the ship.

As they opened the compass box, they found the point of a knife blade inside of it.

Apparently, while cleaning the compass, an unwary sailor had broken off the tip of the knife which lodged inside the box.

It was just a tiny piece of metal, but it was enough to cause the compass to give a bad reading.

As a result, the ship took the wrong route and crashed into the rocks.

Little things have a tendency to get us sidetracked and destroy us.

They siphon our character of Christlike consistency.

Close:

Understand God blessed the faithfulness of Job.

Understand our Influence in the lives of our children needs to be right as well.

We must be people with Character and Consistency if we are going to successfully Stand Fast in the Lord.