

Series: Stand Fast In the Lord

SKIN FOR SKIN (PT. 1)

JOB 2

Text: Job 2:4

Job 2:4

⁴ And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

Introduction:

We all know of the suffering of Job.

He was a man who loved God and yet in a few moments time, he lost all he had.

Although he lost his wealth, his family, and his health, Job never lost his faith.

In the midst of all his suffering, Job stood fast and remained faithful.

Job 19:25

²⁵ For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

He realized a great truth in his trial that God had not forsaken him and that He was in control.

Job's life stands as a testimony for each of us today.

There have been many who have abandoned their faith for much less than what Job endured.

As we encounter the trials of life, they will have an effect on us.

In them we will become bitter or we will become better.

As we looked last week at the challenge and proposal that Satan made with God. Thinking that Job's faithfulness was based solely on God's blessing and protection instead of Job's love for God.

But Satan was proven wrong.

Read Text: Job 2:1-10

Job 2:1-10

¹ Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

² And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. ³ And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that

feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. ⁴ And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. ⁵ But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. ⁶ And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. ⁷ So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. ⁸ And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. ⁹ Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. ¹⁰ But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

We'll consider Satan's second challenge and proposal this morning.

Sermon Content:

1. THE CONSISTENCY OF SATAN (VS. 1)

3 Job 2:1

¹ **Again** there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

Understand:

Satan does quit like some many do today.

He is consistent in his:

- Accusations
- Assaults

The life of Job serves as an example of this truth.

Illustration:

In the New Testament we see the greatest example of this truth in the life of the Lord.

Luke 4:1-13

*¹ And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² Being **forty days tempted of the devil**. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. ³ And the devil said unto him, **If thou be the Son of God**, command this stone that it be made bread. ⁴ And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. ⁵ And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of*

them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. ⁷ **If thou therefore wilt worship me**, all shall be thine. ⁸ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ⁹ And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, **If thou be the Son of God**, cast thyself down from hence: ¹⁰ For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: ¹¹ And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ¹² And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ¹³ And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

It's interesting the timing of this temptation.

It happened immediately after His baptism.

One moment Jesus was hearing the approval of the Father; receiving the anointing of the Spirit and confirming the acceptance of His mission; the next moment, He finds Himself being compelled to go into this time of temptation.

There is a great lesson here for the children of God.

We are never more vulnerable than when we are coming out of a time of great victory.

Satan loves to attack us when we think we are the strongest.

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Understand:

When temptations to evil come, they never come from the hand of God.

James 1:13

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

God never leads people into sin. He leads us away from evil.

He will send us into periods of testing. He does this, not to cause us to fail, but to help us grow in the Lord.

Often we do our best growing when the pressure is on.

The difference in a piece of coal and a diamond is heat and pressure.

Satan however will use these times to tempt us.

Note:

- The Loneliness

In that wilderness place, Jesus was cut off from friends and family.

He was shut off for a time so that He might be tested.

His only companions were “the wild beasts”, “the angels” and “the devil.”

Mark 1:12-13

¹² And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

Notice not only the Loneliness but also:

- The Length

This time of testing lasted 40 days.

It’s interesting that the number 40 is used in the Bible for “times of testing, times of probation, and times of preparation.

Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness.

Moses spent 40 years on the backside of the desert in training.

The spies spent 40 days spying out Canaan.

It rained for 40 days and night during the flood.

We're told in Matt. That Jesus fasted those 40 days.

The Lord was preparing Himself spiritually for the showdown that was coming when Satan unleashed his temptations.

This time of testing lasted forty days for Jesus.

We never know how long our times of testing will be when they do come our way.

Our duty is to be prepared for them when they come.

We do not know how hard the battles may be, but we do have His promise that He will support us through them all.

Note 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸ For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 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. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

As we consider the temptations of our Lord we note.

- The First Temptation – To Doubt God's Provisions

Matthew 4:3-4

³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Satan still works the same way today causing people to doubt God's provisions.

Note also:

- The Second Temptation – To doubt the Father’s Protection

Matthew 4:5-7

⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Satan proceeded to tempt the Lord to put His Heavenly Father’s love and power to a test.

Satan was still hoping to undermine Jesus’ relationship to God in His divine Son-ship.

Satan again introduced his temptation with the words “If you are the Son of God.

Prove to yourself and to the world that you are the Son of God, and throw yourself down.”

Now what is interesting about this temptation is that now Satan quotes Scripture as well, he quotes Psalm 91:11-12.

Psalm 91:11-12

¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹² They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Satan was saying; “You claim to be God’s Son and You claim to trust His Word, so, why don’t you demonstrate you are really God’s Sons and prove the truth of God’s Word by putting Him to a test.

- The Third Temptation – To Doubt God’s Promise

Matthew 4:8-11

⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Satan comes to Jesus and says, “Bow down to me and I will give you the kingdoms of the World.”

Understand:

- It's not a sin to be tempted.

The Lord was tempted.

- Temptation can be resisted

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

We resist temptation by turning to God's Word as the Lord demonstrated.

Remember:

Waiting on God's provision is always better than settling for Satan's Substitutes.

The telling truth of Satan's consistency is found in verse 13.

Luke 4:13

¹³ And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he **departed from him for a season**.

Though Satan ceased at this time his temptation is was only but for a season.

Thought:

Sadly Satan is more faithful than some Christians today.

That should convict our hearts today.

We have considered the Consistency of Satan.

Notice secondly:

2. THE CHARACTER OF JOB

Job 2:3

³ And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

I want to look at Job's character in detail in a moment, but before we do there is something that we need to consider.

We live in a day where many preach and believe that only the wicked suffer.

There is a movement in our land that teaches that it isn't God's will for us to suffer.

If we face difficulties in life, then our faith has wavered or we have wandered from God.

This is not a biblical doctrine.

We will see in the character of Job a man who loved God and lived for Him.

Remember: 2 Timothy 3:12

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² *Yea, and all that **will** live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

Note two words in this verse – “will” and “shall.”

Thought:

If you're not suffering persecution it could be that you're not living godly.

When trials come don't immediately begin to question and look for failures in life.

God does use trials at times to chasten His children, but just because a trial has come is no clear indication that you have missed God's will or strayed from Him.

Job suffered and we will as well, but the important aspect of suffering is how we come through our trial on

the other side. In our times of suffering will we be able to maintain our character before the Lord?

Notice the character of Job while enduring a trial.

We see:

A. A Man of Respect (vs. 3)

Job 2:3

³ And the LORD said unto Satan, **Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth**, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

God had asked the same question of Satan prior to his 1st attack, and here we find God asking the same question.

Job had already lost his wealth and his family and he is still recognized as a man who stands above the rest.

God was aware of the life of Job.

Those around him could see that he was a man of God and lived for Him.

Questions:

How do you stand in the midst of trials?

Could the Lord say the same of you?

Do those around you notice that you are walking with God even though difficulties have come?

Even in the midst of trials we need to maintain our integrity.

The world is watching our lives.

If we can let our faith in God show even in hard times, then we have succeeded in being an effective witness.

It is easy to live for God when the sun is shining, but it is sometimes hard in the storm.

Job was consistent in his walk with God; we need that same consistency!

How do others view our lives?

Are we bitter in trials or better?

Job was not only a man of Respect but also:

B. A Man of Reverence

Job 2:3

³ *And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and **an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?** and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.*

He was a man who lived a holy life before the Lord and men. He feared God and "turned aside, departed from, and avoided evil."

It would have been easy for Job to have questioned God and accused Him of neglecting him.

We find nothing in the life of Job to reveal that he lost his reverence for God – he stood fast.

Many times when trials come we are tempted to question the Lord.

Why has this happened to me?

God why did you allow this to come in my life if you love me?

In those times it is easy to wander from God and get entangled in sin.

Satan would have you believe that God doesn't love you and there is no use to continue for him.

I have seen many grow bitter toward God when trials come.

In our times of difficulty we must continue to fear and serve God.

Job was not only a man of Respect and Reverence but also:

C. A Man of Resolve (vs. 3c)

Job 2:3

*³ And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? **and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.***

Job had already suffered greatly at the hand of Satan and yet he remained committed to the Lord.

He wasn't about to abandon the One who had blessed him with all that he had.

Note the resolve of Job.

Job 1:20-21

²⁰ Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

²¹ 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.

Job 2:9-10

⁹ Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. ¹⁰ But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Job had lost his family and all that he had worked for and yet he worshipped the Lord.

He realized that God had given and God had taken away.

Take a moment to consider all that God has blessed you with.

Has He not been good to us all?

We must be careful that our worship isn't centered on the blessings we've received.

Are you here today simply because God has blessed you with material blessings or because of a relationship with Him?

Are you here today to satisfy yourself or to worship the Lord?

If you are serving God for the blessings, there may come a day when they are gone and what would you have left?

If our service to the Lord revolves around blessings then we will likely become bitter when they are taken away.

If our service revolves around our love for Him no matter what, then we will likely become better through trials.

We'll close this morning and Lord willing continue this message this evening in considering:

The Cruelty of Satan

The Consolation of Job

Close:

As we close may we be reminded again of the Consistency of Satan.

Satan is consistent in his:

- Accusations
- Attacks
- Assaults

Don't think just because you didn't succumb to his first attempt or attack that he will leave you alone.

He may briefly, but only for a season.

Would be said of us that we're an individual of Character.

One who:

- Is Respected
- With Reverence
- With Resolve

May we stand fast in the midst of trials.