

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

WHY IS LIGHT GIVEN TO A MAN WHOSE WAY IS HID JOB 3

Text: Job 3:23

Job 3:23

²³ ***Why is light given to a man whose way is hid***, and
whom God hath hedged in?

Introduction:

On February 15, 1947 Glenn Chambers boarded a plane bound for Ecuador to begin his ministry in missionary broadcasting.

But he never arrived. In a horrible moment, the plane carrying Chambers crashed into a mountain peak and spiraled downward.

Later it was learned that before leaving the Miami airport, Chambers wanted to write his mother a letter.

All he could find for stationery was a page of advertising on which was written the single word "Why?" Around that word he hastily scribbled a final note. After Chambers' mother learned of her son's death, his letter arrived. She opened the envelope,

took out the paper, and unfolded it. Staring her in the face was the question “Why?”

Life is filled with its “Why” moments. Why do children suffer? Why do terrible things happens to decent people? Why do the wicked prosper while the righteous seem to have more than their share of difficulty? The “Why’s” could go on forever!

In the midst of his trials, that was Job’s question. Job’s “Why” revolves around why he was even allowed to be born when such tragedy was in his future. I am not sure that we can ever adequately address the “Why” question in this life. But, there is some help for us in Job’s trials.

As I share some thoughts this morning from this passage; I don’t intend to answer the question, but I do want to show you that even our “Why” times have their place in our lives. I want you to see that even our “Why” times are designed to mature us and help us become more like the Lord.

Note:

1. THE TRAGEDIES OF JOB’S LIFE

In Job’s tragedies he lost much.

- He Lost His Family

- He Lost His Fortune
- He Lost His Fitness
- He Lost His Friends

Remember none of will leave life untouched or unscathed by trouble.

Trials will do one of two things:

They will either Drive Us To God; or They Will Drive Us From God.

If you understand that the Lord is in control of all of life, then you can rest in the sure knowledge that God is in control of all that comes to pass in life.

Some people react to their “Why’s” with anger. They become upset because God didn’t do anything to stop their “Why” moment from happening.

Our troubles can make us or break us.

We note not only “Tragedies of Job’s Life” but note secondly:

2. THE TEMPTATIONS OF JOB'S LIFE

When these events occurred in Job's life, he was faced with certain temptations. These are the same temptations we all face when trouble haunts us.

A. He Could Have Faulted God

Job 1:11

¹¹ But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 2:5

⁵ But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

One of the great benefits of suffering is that it reveals the true character of the people around you!

Job's friends the Bible says came to comfort him (Job 2:11) but all they did was leveled one attack after another at Job.

- He is accused of hypocrisy

Job 4:5

⁵ But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.

Job 4:8

⁸ *Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.*

- He is accused of being weak

Job 4:5-6

⁵ *But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.* ⁶ *Is not this thy fear, thy confidence, thy hope, and the uprightness of thy ways?*

Job 4:10-11

¹⁰ *The roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion, and the teeth of the young lions, are broken.*

¹¹ *The old lion perisheth for lack of prey, and the stout lion's whelps are scattered abroad.*

- He is accused of wickedness

Job 4:7-9

⁷ *Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off?* ⁸ *Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.* ⁹ *By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed.*

- He is accused of being self-righteous with a bad attitude

Job 4:17

¹⁷ Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?

This is just a few of the encouraging words of comfort his friends gave him and there are many more but all of this was a temptation fault God.

Not only was there the temptation to fault God there was also:

B. The Temptation to Forsake God

Job could have adopted the attitude of his wife in Job 2:9.

Job 2:9

⁹ Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

Many people react with bitterness toward the things God allows in their lives. The deaths of loved ones, illnesses, tragedies, or misfortunate things, all have the power to create bitterness within our hearts, if we do not maintain the proper perspective.

It would do us well to remember that God's purpose in trials is not to destroy us, but to perfect us.

Romans 8:29

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Ephesians 4:13-15

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Just as pressure, heat and time are needed to create a diamond; the same things are needed to produce a vessel of honor for the Lord.

We have considered the "Tragedies of Job's Life" and the "Temptation of Job's Life but also note:

3. THE TESTIMONY OF JOB'S LIFE

Though Job was tempted to fault and forsake the Lord; what Job did should be our reaction to the Trials we experience.

Note:

A. He Worshiped (vs. 1:20)

Job 1:20

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

Certainly this is not the reaction of most people to the trials of life.

Most people grumble and gripe, complain and become critical.

When the trials of life tempts us to fault and forsake the Lord we should worship the Lord.

Not only did Job worship also:

B. He Witnessed (vs. 1:21)

Job 1:21

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 declared his faith in God.

God shouldn't have to please us to get us to serve Him!

We love it when the Lord gives. We do not like it when the Lord takes away! But, the same God Who gives is the same God Who can also take things away.

Remember sometime trouble comes because you are in the will of God.

Illustration:

Matthew 14:22-24

²² And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. ²⁴ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

Keep in mind the disciples were exactly where the Lord had put them but even in the midst of God's will they still find themselves in the midst of a storm.

Not only did Job worship and witnessed but also:

C. He Waited (vs. 42:5)

Job 42:5

⁵ *I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.*

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

He didn't understand it all but he kept his eyes of the Lord and trusted that the Lord knew what He was allowing and doing in his life.

We have considered the "Tragedies of Job's Life" the "Temptation of Job's Life and the "Testimony of Job's Life" note lastly:

4. THE TRIUMPH OF JOB'S LIFE

Note:

A. His Realization (vs. 42:5-6)

B. His Restoration (vs. 42:10-17)

C. His Reflection (vs. 42:14)

Close:

Illustration

Dawson Troutman and evangelist and founder of the Navigators ministry drown June 18, 1956 while trying to rescue a girl while a water-skiing in Schroon Lake in New York.

Eyewitnesses tell of the profound anxiety, the tears, and the helpless disbelief in the faces of those who now looked out across the deep blue water.

Everyone's face, that is, except one - Lila Trotman, Dawson's widow.

As she suddenly walked upon the scene a close friend shouted, "Oh, Lila, he's gone. Dawson's gone!" To that she replied in calm assurance the words of Psalm 115:3:

Psalm 115:3

³ But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

All of the anguish, the sudden loneliness that normally consumes and cripples those who survive did not invade that woman's heart. Instead, she leaned hard upon the Lord who had once again done what He pleased.

You may be looking at a “Why” situation today. Though you may be tempted to fault God for allowing it to happen or forsake God because it happened we should worship the Lord for His way is perfect and allow that to become our witness that the Lord is able and faithful to see us through.

Remember there is hope in times of despair and suffering.