

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

HEAVIER THAN THE SAND OF THE SEA JOB 6

Text: Job 6:3

Job 6:3

*³ For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea:
therefore my words are swallowed up.*

Introduction:

As the waves of the sea come ashore and return back to where it came from it leaves behind a smooth carpet of wet sand.

Wet sand builds great sand castles, but shoveling it with a shovel is a different story.

Wet sand is very heavy compared to sand that is dry.

In these verses, Job compares his sadness, sorrow, and suffering with the weight of wet sand.

We all have to deal with wet sand when it comes to everyday living.

In other words, we all deal with matters that weigh us down or burden us.

In this chapter, Job addresses some of the wet sands in his life.

Yet, in spite of his burdens, he remained faithful to the Lord.

In spite of the wet sand in our own lives, we do have hope because of the Lord.

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. THE WET SAND OF PROBLEMS AND PERPLEXITY (VS. 1-3)

Job 6:1-3

¹ But Job answered and said, ² Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together! ³ For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up.

Job felt that if his suffering and grief could be weighed on scales, they would weigh more than the sand of the sea.

Problems can make you feel frustrated and overwhelmed to the point that you may lash out and say things that you will regret later.

Often our burdens are overwhelming at times because they get our focus off the Lord.

Like Peter sinking in the sea when he got his eyes off the Lord, our trials can cause us to emotionally and spiritually sink.

When this happens, we get agitated and often aggressive.

Keeping your eyes on the Lord and taking your troubles to Him will help you a great deal to keep your cool and not lose your joy.

Note: Isaiah 26:3, Philippians 4:7

Isaiah 26:3

³ *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed on thee**: because he trusteth in thee.*

Philippians 4:7

⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Not only did Job deal with the wet sand of Problems and Perplexities but also:

2. THE WET SAND OF PAIN (VS. 4-6)

Job 6:4-6

⁴ For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me. ⁵ Doth the wild ass bray when he hath grass? or loweth the ox over his fodder? ⁶ Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

It is no fun when you are in pain.

Pain insists upon being attended to.

Whether it is a migraine headache, achy joints, or recovering from surgery, pain is not pleasant.

Job was in such intense pain.

He compared his pain to poison arrows.

Illustration:

Hunters would dip the tips of their arrows into toxins that would bring a quick death to their prey or enemies.

The poison would bring about fever, intense thirst, and inflame the blood.

Sometimes breathing was paralyzed or the person would lose his mind, leading to a painful, traumatic death.

Job attributed his suffering and pain to arrows that were shot by God Himself.

His spirit within was drying up.

Jeremiah also felt this way.

Lamentations 3:12-13

¹² He hath bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow. ¹³ He hath caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins.

Job was crying out just like the wild ass cries out when he has no grass to eat or like the ox that has no feed.

Job referenced tasteless food.

Tasteless food can be spewed out, but Job could not remove his pain and suffering.

He felt that God had served him a plate of suffering.

What was so sad about this was the fact that the Lord was NOT the one who was inflicting the pain.

It was Satan that was doing this.

Thought:

How many times is the Lord blamed for our trials and suffering, when in reality our problems are created by Satan or the consequences of our own choices?

Can the Lord inflict pain?

Yes, He can chasten us for our rebellion and disobedience.

Many times, however, He chastens us by doing nothing and letting the free course of our actions come to a head.

Our punishment is reaping the results of our own way.

There is a stinger in the tail of sinful living.

Just ask:

- Samson
- Absalom

- Achan
- Ananias and Sapphira

These all reap the stings of their sinful choices.

Remember: Proverbs 1:30-31, 16:25

Proverbs 1:30-31

³⁰ They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. ³¹ Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

Proverbs 16:25

²⁵ There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Let me add here, that pain is unpleasant, but can also be a blessing from God.

Illustration:

Dr. Paul W. Brand, the noted leprosy expert who was chief of the rehabilitation branch of the Leprosarium in Carville, Louisiana, had a frightening experience one night when he thought he had contracted leprosy.

He arrived in London one night after an exhausting transatlantic ocean trip and long train ride from the English coast.

He was getting ready for bed, had taken off his shoes, and as he pulled off a sock, he discovered there was no feeling in his heel.

Most folks might consider this situation as momentary numbness, but the doctor was terrified since he worked with lepers.

He found a pin, and pricked the small area below his ankle.

He felt no pain.

He thrust the pin deeper, until a speck of blood showed.

He still felt nothing and wondered if he had leprosy.

All that night the great surgeon tried to imagine his new life as a leper, an outcast, and separated from his family.

The next morning he jabbed the skin below his ankle with the pin and when he did it resulted in a loud ouch.

The sensation of pain was a blessing.

From then on, whenever Dr. Brand cut his finger, turned an ankle, he thanked God for pain.

We may not feel the same with our pain, but we should be grateful that we still can feel it.

Not only did Job deal with the wet sand of Problems, Perplexities and Pain but also:

3. THE WET SAND OF PRAYER THAT WERE UNANSWERED (VS. 8)

Job 6:8

⁸ Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant me the thing that I long for!

Job has been praying to the Lord for some kind of deliverance or for death.

He longed for his requests to be fulfilled and his prayers answered, but they have not been answered, yet.

Deliverance has not come.

Death has not come.

The phrase **“the thing that I long for”** means **“a cord or hope.”**

Illustration:

Like a lifeguard that throws a rope to a drowning swimmer, Job longed for God to throw him a lifeline and rescue him.

He longed for his hope of deliverance to be fulfilled.

If not, then he desired to die.

Principle:

Job reveals to us an important principle when in pain and trouble.

We are to put our hope in the Lord and call out to Him in prayer.

Note: Lamentations 3:24, Psalms 42:5, Psalms 119:169, Psalms 61:1

Lamentations 3:24

²⁴ The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

Psalm 42:5

⁵ Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Psalm 119:169

¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.

Psalm 61:1

¹ Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

Job cried out to the Lord, but God had not answered his prayer.

That brings us to a good question, “Why does the Lord delay the answer of our prayers?”

Sometimes:

- It’s to Development of our Faith, Character, or Patience

Learning the lessons of “waiting” will develop patience, strength, and character.

Our instability, doubts, and lack of faith cause us to miss out on God's blessings.

James 1:5-7

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷ For let not that man

think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Psalm 27:14

¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 138:3

³ In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Sometimes:

- It's To Display God's Power and Glory

He often prepares circumstances that will bring glory to Him and demonstrate His power.

He may allow us to come to the end of our rope or allow our situation to become hopeless to show us that He is the One that gives hope and deliverance in hopeless situations.

God was doing that in the life of Job as we will see at the end of the book.

Illustration: The three Hebrew Men

They were thrown into the fiery furnace in Daniel 3 for not worshiping the king's idol.

The Lord did not prevent that from happening. What God did do was to demonstrate

His power to pagan men while these faithful men were in the flames.

Daniel 3:23-25

²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. ²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

In John 11, we find that the Lord delayed His return to Lazarus so that he would die.

The death of Lazarus would bring great glory to the Lord.

The Lord allowed Lazarus' death so that the disciples and others would believe that He was the Christ, the Son of God.

He also showed Lazarus that He could care for him when all was believed lost.

John 11:4

⁴ When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

John 11:11

¹¹ These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

John 11:15

¹⁵ And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

Understand:

The desire of every Christian should be to bring glory to God no matter what we do.

Illustration:

J. S. Bach said, "All music should have no other end and aim than the glory of God and the soul's refreshment; where this is not remembered there is no real music but only a devilish hubbub."

Sometimes:

- The Development of a Desire and Dependence Upon God

The Lord may delay your answer to prayer to develop your dependence upon Him and to seek His face.

He wants us to realize that He is the solution to our needs.

I'll not expound some other burdens that Job dealt with I'll only mention them.

- The Wet Sand of Purposelessness (vs. 9, 11)

Job 6:9

⁹ Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!

Job 6:11

¹¹ What is my strength, that I should hope? and what is mine end, that I should prolong my life?

- The Wet Sand of Powerlessness (vs. 11-13)

Job 6:11-13

¹¹ *What is my strength, that I should hope? and what is mine end, that I should prolong my life?* ¹² *Is my strength the strength of stones? or is my flesh of brass?*

¹³ *Is not my help in me? and is wisdom driven quite from me?*

- The Wet Sand of Painful Words (vs. 24-30)

Job 6:24-30

²⁴ *Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.* ²⁵ *How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?* ²⁶ *Do ye imagine to reprove words, and the speeches of one that is desperate, which are as wind?* ²⁷ *Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig a pit for your friend.* ²⁸ *Now therefore be content, look upon me; for it is evident unto you if I lie.* ²⁹ *Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity; yea, return again, my righteousness is in it.* ³⁰ *Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?*

Close:

Understand man that is born of woman is of few days
and full of trouble.

These things will often weigh us down, like the
heaviness of the sands of the sea.

When these times come we must have faith in God and
depend upon on Him to meet our needs.