

Sermon Notes: June 20, 2021

"The Man in Charge" (Job 38:1-11)

If you would like to look at the context of today's sermon text (Job chapters 38-42), you can find it on p. 443-447 of your pew Bible.

Introduction: Who's in charge?

In most situations, someone must be in charge, but it's also hard *not* being in charge.

Job is an ancient book with lots of mystery, lots of questions, and lots of suffering.

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? (Job 38:4)

"God's questions [to Job] aren't intended to teach; they are intended to stun! ... They aren't intended to stir the mind; they are intended to bend the knees."
- Max Lucado, *In the Eye of the Storm*

The message is simply to stop and remember you're a creature. You're not in charge. You're human, not divine. You're a servant, not the Lord.

Where is God in my suffering?

Because we're not in charge, we naturally wonder what God is up to.

The answer God gives us is His Son, the Man of Sorrows, the Suffering Servant, the sacrifice on the cross. God sent Jesus to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows.

What can we take away from Job's story of suffering?

God is God and we are not. He's bigger than our sorrows & suffering.

Even in suffering, "I know that my Redeemer lives!" (Job 19:25) We know that no matter what, Jesus is the Man in Charge of our lives!

"If Jesus really was who He said He was, and if He really did do what He said He was going to do - including rising from the dead - the implications for our lives are massive ..." - Bear Grylls, *Soul Fuel*

What can men today learn from Job?

Job wasn't perfect, but he was faithful. He lived with integrity. He walked with the Lord. He prayed for his children.

"Job's life was dedicated to God's will and purposes ... A father can give no greater gift to his children ..." - Joel Biermann, *Courageous Fathers of the Bible*

Selected Scriptures for Men & Fathers

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15b)

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your Word.
With my whole heart I seek You; let me not wander from Your commandments!
I have stored up Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:9-11)

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth.
Blessèd is the man who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.
Blessèd is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.
Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
May you see your children’s children! Peace be upon Israel!” (from Psalm 127 & 128)

“The righteous [man] who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!” (Proverbs 20:7)

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17)

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”
(Ephesians 5:25)

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.” (James 1:2-3)

Select a passage or two for further reflection or memorization in your walk with the Lord.

You might also delve deeper into the life and words of a particular man of faith in Scripture (Moses, Joshua, David, Paul, etc.). What can you learn from their faithfulness and courage? What can you also learn from their sins and flaws?

Consider focusing on a father in Scripture, such as Noah, Abraham, Job, Joseph (Jesus’ step-father), or the Prodigal’s Father (Luke 15). What do their lives and families teach you about godly fatherhood or about God’s grace?

Please share this page to encourage a man of faith in your life.