

God Always Has More for Us—Not Less!

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

I. Lessons from the life of Job (Job 1:1-2:10)

- A. We are spiritual people operating under the influence of spiritual powers.
- B. There is a hedge of protection for those who serve God (Job 1:9-12). Satan tries to break through our hedge as the thief who steals, kills, and destroys (John 10:10).
- C. God is all-powerful and good—all the time. Even if we experience the loss of something good, God wants us to have more, not less (Romans 8:28).
- D. Jesus taught us that there is a natural and a supernatural death and life process—e.g., sowing (John 12:23-24) and pruning (John 15:1-2) that results in more, not less.

II. In the Book of Job, we find him trying to manage his suffering and loss. Then some of his “friends” blamed Job’s problems on sinful behavior (Eliphaz—Job 4:3-9; 5:17 and Bilhad—Job 8:1-7).

- A. God and Job had a different opinion (Job 1:8; 27:1-7; 42:7-9).
- B. When God spoke directly to Job, He said, “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge” (Job 38:1-7)?
 - 1. Both Job and his friends obscured God’s plans without knowledge, even though they poured out lots of knowledge about God.
 - 2. His friends were wrong. Job’s pain wasn’t due to his unrighteousness (Job 42:7).
 - 3. Job was wrong, believing God had become unjust and unloving. Both Job and his friends lost sight of God’s love and His plans to transcend suffering and circumstances (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

III. God’s actual plan for Job was for more, not less.

- A. First, Job received a new revelation of who God really is (Job 42:1-6).
- B. Second, God gave Job the opportunity to release provision for himself by forgiving those who wronged him (Job 42:7-9).
 - 1. After Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes (Job 42:10).
 - 2. Forgiveness is the key to many people’s restoration. Grace for us is sometimes locked in the jail of unforgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15).
- C. God’s plans for Job were for him to receive twice as much as before (Job 42:12-17).
 - 1. The exact double Job received was a very clear message to Job, and to us as well.
 - 2. Job also received exactly seven more sons and three more daughters, and double everything else he had lost. (Compare Job 1:1-3 and Job 42:10-17.)

IV. Many stories in the Bible prophesy the “more—not less” of what God accomplished through Jesus (Isaiah 53:3-5, 10-12; 54:1-5, 13-17).

- A. Walking with Jesus is not just about this life. “No one who has left home, or brothers, or sisters, or mother, or father, or children, or fields for Me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age—along with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life” (Mark 10:29-31).
- B. Secret to Paul’s ministry: “power made perfect in weakness” (II Cor. 12:6-10)
- C. “What shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us”(Romans 8:31-39)?

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