

## For Personal Reflection

- If you are in a trial right now, are you in a ‘verse 9 phase’? How long have you been in it? Pause and pray now.
  
- Where have you been running in your pain? Towards or away from God?
  
- Reflect on your ‘Red-Dot Reality’ - where are you in life? What are your painful circumstances? Are you more focused on trying to get out of your circumstances or seeing God in the midst of them? Pause and pray now.
  
- Have you considered the possibility of *anguished trust*? Did you know that was an appropriate, biblical option?

## Shattered

*Looking at Suffering through the Eyes of Job*

### Good Grief

#### Job 2-3

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / February 21, 2010*

#### Job 2:1-10

We don't know exactly what disease Job was inflicted with, but we do know that it was awful, painful, and even involved some disfigurement because v. 12 says his friends ‘did not recognize him.’

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| - inflamed, ulcerous sores (Job 2:7)            | - itching (2:8)                   |
| - degenerative changes in facial skin (2:7, 12) | - loss of appetite (3:24)         |
| - depression (3:24-25)                          | - loss of strength (6:11)         |
| - worms in the boils (7:5)                      | - running sores (7:5)             |
| - difficulty in breathing (9:18)                | - darkness under the eyes (16:16) |
| - foul breath (19:17)                           | - loss of weight (19:20; 33:21)   |
| - continual pain (30:17)                        | - restlessness (30:27)            |
| - blackened skin (30:30)                        | - peeling skin (30:30)            |
| - fever (30:30)                                 |                                   |

#### Two Very Different Responses to Suffering

##### I. Your Suffering Has the Potential to Crush You into Faithless Despair

**Job 2:9** “Then his wife said to him, ‘Do you still hold to your integrity? Curse God and die!’”

Remember, Satan's ultimate goal is not to heap physical suffering on your life... Satan really wants to cut you off from God and to rob you of the hope and help that can only be found in holding onto God.

##### II. Your Suffering Could Press You into a New Place of Anguished Trust

**Job 2:10** “But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity? In all this Job did not sin with his lips.’”

**Ecclesiastes 7:14** “In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: surely God has appointed the one as well as the other...”

God is ultimately sovereign over both calamity and prosperity... and He knows what He’s doing... even when we don’t.

*‘Anguished Trust’*

- Is the only face that faith ever wears is a happy face?

The Bible gives us more than one face of faith.

**James 5:11** *New Living* “We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. Job is an example of a man who endured patiently. From his experience we see how the Lord’s plan finally ended in good, for He is full of tenderness and mercy.”

**Job 3:3-4,11-13** “May the day of my birth perish, and the night it was said, ‘A boy is born.’ That day—may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine on it...v. 11 Why did I not perish at birth and die as I came from the womb? Why were there knees to receive me and breasts that I might be nursed? For now I would be lying down in peace; I would be asleep and at rest.”

“God meets us where we are, not where we pretend to be or wish we were. My job is to pay attention to where I am. When I enter my reality (my red-dot truth), He brings His reality, His truth, into mine.” *Real Church: Does it exist? Can I find it?* Larry Crabb, p. 137

**Job 3:24-26** “For sighing comes to me instead of food; my groans pour out like water. What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.”

- What do you do with your anguish when part of your anguish has to do with God Himself?
- How do you reconcile why He’s allowing this pain into your life?

**Job 7:11-16, 20** “Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. Am I the sea, or the monster of the deep, that you put me under guard? When I think

my bed will comfort me and my couch will ease my complaint, even then you will frighten me with dreams and terrify me with visions so that I prefer strangling and death, rather than this body of mine. I despise my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone; my days have no meaning... v. 20 If I have sinned, what have I done to you, O watcher of men? Why have you made me your target? Have I become a burden to you?”

### III. When Suffering Strikes It’s Your Choice Where You Run ~ Either To or Away from God

**Psalms 10, 77, 88, 130** are just a few of the Psalms that express this anguished trust in God... a God that seems at the moment to be silent and hiding. They ask the question:

- God, why do you seem so far from me?
- Why do the wicked prosper?
- How long will the pain continue?

#### **Psalm 77:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> “Will the Lord cast off forever?  
And will He be favorable no more?  
<sup>8</sup> Has His mercy ceased forever?  
Has His promise failed forevermore?  
<sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious?  
Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? Selah  
<sup>10</sup> And I said, “This is my anguish;  
But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.”

#### **Psalm 130:1-7**

“Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD;  
<sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice!  
Let Your ears be attentive  
To the voice of my supplications.  
<sup>3</sup> If You, LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
<sup>4</sup> But there is forgiveness with You,  
That You may be feared.  
<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
And in His word I do hope.  
<sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord  
More than those who watch for the morning—  
Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.  
<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD;  
For with the LORD there is mercy,  
And with Him is abundant redemption.”