

- He experienced relational isolation—all of his friends deserted Him when he needed them most. He experienced spiritual isolation—God the Father turned His face away from Jesus when He hung on the cross.
- Jesus became sin for us... and rose again for us... so that we can have the hope of the resurrection in the midst of suffering.

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-14

<sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup> So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. <sup>13</sup> It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, <sup>14</sup> because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence."

## Psalm 88:1-13

"O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You. Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry. For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to the grave. I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man who has no strength, adrift among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand. You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all Your waves. Selah. You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; I am shut up, and I cannot get out; my eye wastes away because of affliction... v. 13 But to You I have cried out, O Lord, and in the morning my prayer comes before You. Lord, why do you cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me?"

"No psalm more powerfully communicates, 'Come to me as you are, with all your doubt and fear, pain and discouragement. Hold before Me your shattered hopes and dreams, and find redemption and rest when it seems there is none to be found. Don't hesitate because your heart is weak and your mind confused. Don't hesitate because you have questioned My goodness and love. Come as you are, for My sacrifice is for you, just as you are. The cross is just as real in the darkness as in the light.'" *How People Change*, Timothy S. Lane & Paul David Tripp, p. 114

# Shattered

*Looking at Suffering through the Eyes of Job*

## **The Hope of Redemption**

**Job 19:6-27**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / March 7, 2010*

### **I. When You're Suffering Intensely You Don't Have to Pretend or Deny that it's Dark**

The glory of Christianity and the cross is rooted in the reality of suffering... not the denial of it.

#### **A. Your Spiritual Darkness is Probably What Pains You the Most**

**Job 19:7-12** "Though I cry, 'I've been wronged!' I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice. He [God] has blocked my way so I cannot pass; He has shrouded my paths in darkness. He has stripped me of my honor and removed the crown from my head. He tears me down on every side till I am gone; He uproots my hope like a tree. His anger burns against me; He counts me among His enemies. His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and encamp around my tent."

**Job 19:11** "God's anger burns against me; He counts me among his enemies."

- Where is God in all of this?
- Why don't I sense His presence?
- Did you know that God will allow His children to experience darkness?

**Isaiah 50:10-11** "Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon His God. Look, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled – this you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment."

Wait on the Lord – in the dark! And trust in the Lord – in the dark!

Human solutions only give temporary relief and often add complicating sin-factors. God will just lead you back down another dark path to finish what He started, not because He hates you - but because He loves you, and wants to teach you to trust Him in the dark.

**Remember:** Everything you ever learned in the light - is still true in the dark, and becomes more meaningful in the dark; and whatever God teaches you in the dark will forever be more precious to you in the light.

“It is not the days of sunshine and splendor and liberty and light that leave their lasting and indelible effect upon the soul, but those nights of the Spirit in which, shadowed by God’s hand, hidden in the dark cleft of some rock in a weary land, He lets the splendors of the outskirts of Himself pass before our gaze.” Oswald Chambers in *Be Patient: Waiting on God in Difficult Times*, Warren Wiersbe, p.72

## **B. Your Relational Darkness Just Adds Salt to the Wound**

**Job 19:13-14** “He has alienated my brothers from me; my acquaintances are completely estranged from me. My kinsmen have gone away; my friends have forgotten me.”

- v. 13 talks about brothers and acquaintances
- v. 14 talks about relatives and close friends
- v. 15 even servants in his own house
- v. 17 his wife and immediate family
- v. 18 young children
- v. 19 “All my close friends and those whom I love have turned against me.”

## **C. Your Feelings Can be Thrown into Confusion with No Felt Sense of God’s Presence**

**Job 23:8-9** *New Living* "I go east, but He is not there. I go west, but I cannot find Him. I do not see Him in the north, for He is hidden. I turn to the south, but I cannot find Him."

### **'Truth-Oriented' life vs. 'Feeling-Oriented' life:**

Choose to take the promises of God, to claim them and believe them - whether you feel it or not. It’s essential for the Christian life.

**Hebrews 13:5-6** “... ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’”

God does not want His children to be feeling-dependent people... ‘F.D.P.s’ He wants us to be faith-driven people... trusting Him in the dark.

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Our definition of ‘Blessing’ is far too narrow.

**Psalms 119:75** “I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.”

## **II. When You’re Suffering Intensely You Have to Remember What Matters Most – and What Cannot be Taken from You!**

**Job 19:25-27** *New Living* “But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see Him for myself. Yes, I will see Him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!”

- Literally it says in v. 25 ‘I, even I, know...’
- Literally it says in v. 27 ‘I, even I, will see Him...’

He says, “I *know* that my Redeemer lives.” I *know* this. And this word “know” is the Hebrew word ‘*yada*’ that’s used to describe an intimate, personal knowledge.

His hope is fixed on a person.

- This Redeemer named Jesus experienced all of what Job experienced and more through His death on the cross.