**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Stand When You Don’t Understand |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Job 1:6-22 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1723 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. We find out that as we go through life, there are many things that will not make sense to us.
      1. There will be times when we are broken, crushed, confused, and nothing makes sense.
      2. We turn to God and ask Him why, but Heaven is absolutely silent.
   2. Job 1:6-9
      1. “*Escheweth evil*” in verse 8 means that he hates what is wrong.
      2. This passage begins a drama, in three acts, that will help us to stand when we don’t understand.
   3. One of the most perplexing commands in the Bible is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
      1. It is easy to give thanks for some things, such as food, health, family, a new job, etc.
         1. There is no difficulty in that.
         2. But that isn’t what this Scripture says.
      2. This Scripture says that we’re to give thanks, not just for the good things, but in everything.
         1. What about evil?
         2. What about pain?
         3. What about divorce?
         4. What about apostasy?
      3. The key is that it doesn’t say “for” everything; it says “in” everything.
         1. Take this verse and marry it with Romans 8:28.
         2. But how are we to give thanks for some things and even in some things?
   4. The background for today’s message begins with a scene in Heaven.
      1. Satan is allowed access to Heaven.
         1. The name “Satan” means “slanderer” and “accuser”.
            1. Satan wants to slander.
            2. When we slander, we are doing the work of the devil.
            3. If we have an accusatory nature about us, then we are very much like the devil.
      2. Job 1:7-8
         1. Satan had been walking up and down the Earth, looking for someone he could criticize.
         2. God asked, “Have you considered my servant Job?”
            1. God was watching Job, and Job brought pleasure to God.
      3. Satan began to criticize Job.
         1. Job 1:9
         2. He implied that God had bribed Job and that Job had a commercial faith.
         3. He implied that the only reason Job served God was for what Job could get out of it.
      4. Job 1:10
         1. Satan knew that there was a hedge around Job because he had been trying to break through that hedge.
         2. And Satan is trying to get at you right now.
            1. Thank God for the hedge that He puts around us.
      5. Satan offered God a challenge.
         1. Job 1:10-11
            1. Satan claimed that if God took down the hedge, then Job would curse God to His face.
         2. Satan implied that Job only loved God because of “because” love.
            1. “Because” love is the weakest kind of love.

Some of us don’t have strong families because the only kind of love that we have for our wives or husbands is “because” love.

I love you because you’re beautiful.

I love you because you’re rich.

I love you because you’re smart.

If we love with a “because” clause, then the love goes away when the “because” is taken away.

People stay together because of what they feel they can get out of it.

This is the kind of love that Satan accused Job of having.

* + - * 1. God was going to prove that this was not so.

Job 1:12

Not only does this tell us that Satan has the power to afflict, but it also tells us that Satan’s power is limited.

He is powerful, but he is not all-powerful.

* 1. In today’s message, we will look into this drama in three acts.
     1. We will learn how to stand when we can’t understand.

1. act one: in unexpected tragedy, we praise (job 2:3, 1:13-22)
   1. Life caved in on Job.
      1. He had no way to understand why life had caved in on him.
      2. He had not done anything wrong at all.
   2. Job 2:3
      1. Notice the last two words of this verse: “Without cause”.
         1. There was nothing that Job had done to deserve what he got.
   3. When trouble comes, one of the first things that we might say is, “What did I do wrong?”
      1. Maybe we did do something wrong.
      2. But it is very possible that we have done nothing wrong.
   4. Job lost his wealth.
      1. Job 1:13-17
      2. Job, who was one of the wealthiest men of his day, lost it all.
         1. His possessions were stripped from him.
         2. He went to bed a millionaire, and he woke up a pauper.
   5. Job lost his family.
      1. Job 1:18-19
      2. All of his children were gone.
   6. Job lost his fitness.
      1. Job 2:7-9
         1. A “potsherd” is a piece of broken pottery.
         2. Job had oozing, vile sores from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet.
            1. He could not get comfortable.
            2. He could not lie down.
            3. He could not sit up.
            4. The doctors could not do anything for him.
         3. At this moment, Job’s wife became the voice of the devil because that was exactly what the devil said that Job would do.
            1. Job 1:11
   7. Job lost his face (reputation).
      1. Job 2:11
      2. Job’s three comforters came to him, and they began to philosophize.
         1. Their philosophy was that Job had sinned.
            1. They claimed that no one could suffer the calamity that Job had suffered unless that person had done something wrong.
            2. They said that if Job was right with God, then he wouldn’t know sickness and sorrow.
      3. There are a lot of people who tell us that if we just get right with God, then we will be wealthy, healthy, and will never know any more pain or trouble.
         1. But this is not the truth.
            1. Job had not done anything wrong, and he was suffering.
      4. Job lost his reputation because everyone wondered what Job had done that was so terrible.
   8. Job lost his friends.
      1. Job 19:13-14
      2. When trouble comes, a friend is someone who will come in with that trouble and stand by us and help us.
      3. Job’s friends forsook him.
      4. Even his relatives were gone from him.
      5. Job 19:19
      6. It is a hard thing to take when it seems like there is not another soul on Earth who understands or even cares.
   9. What do we do when tragedy comes?
      1. Job 1:20-22
      2. When unexpected tragedy comes, we praise God by faith.
         1. We don’t have to know why.
         2. We don’t have to understand.
         3. This is not being hypocritical; it is being a saint.
            1. We don’t feel like praising in these moments.
            2. But in everything give thanks.

Thessalonians 5:18

1. act two: in unexplained mystery, we trust (job 13:15)
   1. Job 13:15
   2. The book of Job ends without Job ever knowing what went on.
      1. God didn’t tell Job that what was happening was a contest.
         1. The devil had said that if everything was taken away from Job, then he would curse God.
         2. God was going to prove the devil wrong.
            1. Job was going to help Him prove the devil wrong.
   3. Tragedy goes to mystery.
      1. Job 23:1-5
         1. Job was saying, “God, where are You?”
         2. Job wanted answers.
      2. Job 23:8-9
         1. Where is God?
      3. Not only does Job have misery, but he also has mystery.
         1. It does not make sense to him.
      4. We think we can bear almost anything if we just know why.
   4. Life is not a problem to be solved; it is a mystery to be lived.
      1. This is what the book of Job is telling us.
   5. We do not live by explanations; we live by promises.
      1. God never did explain anything to Job.
   6. Sometimes, it is God’s plan that we don’t understand.
      1. When we don’t understand and we trust Him, that is a far greater faith than understanding and trusting Him.
      2. Robert Frost said, “It was of the essence of the trial that you shouldn’t understand it at the time. It had to seem unmeaning to have meaning.”
   7. In time of tragedy, praise; in time of mystery, trust.
   8. Andrew Murray put it this way:
      1. In times of trouble, God’s trusting child may say, first, that He brought me here.
         * 1. It is His will that I am in this place.
         1. Next, He will keep me here in His love and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child.
         2. Then, He will make the trial a blessing.
            1. Teaching me the lessons He intends for me to learn and working the grace that He means to bestow.
         3. Last, in His good time, He can bring me out again.
            1. How and when, He knows.
      2. I am here by God’s appointment.
      3. I am here in God’s keeping.
      4. I am here under His training.
      5. I am here for His time.
   9. Someone else has written the following:
      1. God is too good to be unkind.
      2. He is too wise to make a mistake.
      3. When we cannot trace His hand, we can trust His heart.
   10. Job 1:21
   11. Job 13:15
2. act three: in unexcelled victory, we stand (JOB 38:1-4)
   1. Job finally gets an answer from God, but God never answered any of Job’s questions.
      1. God just answers Job.
         1. He answers the questioner.
         2. He never gave Job any answers.
      2. God just gave Job Himself.
         1. God gave Job a revelation of Himself.
         2. He didn’t say why; He revealed who.
         3. He didn’t give a reason; He gave a relationship.
      3. There are some things that we will never understand until we get to Heaven.
   2. Job learned the sovereignty of God.
      1. Job 38:1-4
      2. God asked Job some of the hardest questions on Earth.
      3. Isaiah 55:9
         1. There are things that we don’t know and don’t understand.
      4. God is the Creator.
      5. God is the sovereign God.
      6. God can do whatever He wants.
   3. Job learned the sufficiency of God.
      1. Job 42:1-2, 5
         1. Job finally sees God.
         2. Job’s three friends were talking about God, but Job is now talking to God.
      2. God is enough.
         1. We all know that God is necessary, but many of us may not understand that God is enough.
         2. We may not know that God is enough until God is all that we have.
      3. Where are you getting your joy?
         1. Are you getting your joy from your children or your health?
            1. If those are taken away, then will you still have your joy?
      4. Job had nothing and no one, except God.
         1. He learned that God is sufficient.
      5. Psalm 37:4
         1. He doesn’t mean that He will give us things, health, a job, or anything else.
         2. He will give us Himself.
            1. When He does, then we can stand when we don’t understand.
   4. We don’t have to know why.
      1. All we must know is Him.
         1. God is sovereign.
         2. God is sufficient.
3. CONCLUSION
   1. You can go from tragedy to mystery to victory, just like Job did so long ago.
   2. You may be hurting, and what you really need is not relief from your pain as much as you need God.
      1. If you don’t know the Lord Jesus, then you can know Him today.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16