

**Job 12: 1-10; “The Lord Has Done This”, Sermon # 22 in the series entitled –
“Remember to Magnify His Work”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall
on October 3rd, 2021, in the Afternoon Worship.**

This afternoon, before we partake of the Communion, I want to bring to your attention truths related to Job’s statement in verse 9 – “Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? That is, who does not know, even among the beasts of the earth, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, that the hand of the Lord had done this? Job thought that God had brought him to this awful place; the place where he did not feel that he could go on living because of all that had happened to him. He did not understand why God was afflicting him in this awful way.

At this time I want to bring to your attention 3 truths concerning Christ’s sufferings which address all of Job’s questions and concerns. Christ suffered and died so that, eventually, Job would come to see just how much God really did love Him; how much He really did care for him, all through the time of this trial. God loved him, not only for being the righteous man that he was, but also He loved him and cared for him as a sinner who needed grace and instruction and help in the time of his greatest need.

1st of all – Christ suffered and died, to bear us up during our times of being misunderstood by other Christians. (verses 1-6)

“Then Job answered and said: ‘No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with You!’ “But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you.” “Indeed, who does not know such things as these.” Job is addressing all three of his friends and not simply Zophar when he said this. He is saying that they thought themselves superior to him in wisdom and understanding. And yet the things that they were saying to him and about him, were not true in relation to his case. You will remember that in the last chapter, Zophar had said to Job in verse 3 – “Should your empty talk make men hold their peace?” “And when you mock, should no one rebuke you?” “For you have said, ‘My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in your eyes.’”

Now, Job had said in chapter 10, verse 7 that God knew that he was not wicked. And in that same chapter he had said in verse 3, he did say to God – “Does it seem good to You that You should oppress, that You should despise the work of Your hands, and smile on the counsel of the wicked?” If Job had actually sinned in some way, this could be construed as mocking. But when he had not actually sinned, it was actually an insult to Job to tell him that he was mocking. Zophar and his friends were assuming something about Job which was not true. And that was, that he had sinned in some great way, that he was not confessing to God.

Zophar was saying that it was mocking God to speak the way that he did to God, when from his standpoint, Job was guilty of some sin, and should repent of it. And Job says – No doubt you are the people and wisdom will die with you! You, and Eliphaz and Bildad supposedly have wisdom on my difficult situation that I do not agree with. You think that you know that I am a sinful hypocrite. But this is simply not true, he says to them. He then asserts that he is not inferior to them, in his ability to evaluate these things, and further, he says, what believer in God does not know the things that you are asserting? That is, that God will judge all unrepented of sin, and bring it to light.

He then recounts before them all, what was true of them; what they were doing to him, in this difficult situation that he was going through. He says – I am mocked by my friends, the one who called upon God, and He answered him. The just and blameless man is being ridiculed. I, the one who was a light to others is now despised in the thoughts of those who are not going through any trial. And these are men who are at ease themselves. Verse 5 in the King James is a better translation here than the New King James. It says – “He that is ready to slip with his feet is as a lamp despised in the thought of him who is at ease.” This is how Job described

himself in the presence of those who were supposed to be his friends. He says that instead of helping him, comforting him, or encouraging him to trust in God, they had not said anything about those robbers, the Sabeans and the Chaldeans, who had taken all of his possessions away from him, and killed his servants.

Even though they had provoked God by their sins of theft and robbery, his friends do not make any mention of that. The robbers had gotten safely away to enjoy their plunder, and he himself was now very poor and needy. And yet his friends speak nothing about these things. At this juncture I want us to remember what Christ went through in His afflictions. His sufferings were very much like Job's in certain respects; sufferings of soul and body. And yet His sufferings went so much deeper. It was actually Christ's sufferings that were bearing Job up in his trial. In the garden our Lord said – My soul is sorrowful even unto death. This was for Job's sake, so that He might be strengthened by grace and born up in his trial to keep him from despair.

In Isaiah 53: 7 it says – “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth.” And we must note, also, that Christ willingly underwent these sufferings. He did not suffer for Himself, but for all of God's elect people, including Job. The things that happened to Job happened to him according to the good purpose and plan of God, to show forth Job's blamelessness and his integrity. The sufferings that Christ underwent, He took them upon Himself so that we would be saved from all of our sins, and obtain a perfect righteousness which would be imputed to us. He suffered so that we would always be seen by God as acceptable and righteous in His sight.

Job was being wounded in his spirit by the thoughtless words of his friends. Christ was wounded in the house of His friends; those who should have been His friends, the Jews, before He went to the cross. Those who were His kinsmen according to the flesh hated Him without a cause. He says in Psalm 69, verse 4, they were more than the hairs of his head; they were mighty and they would destroy Him, being His enemies wrongfully. Though He had stolen nothing, He still must restore it. All of these sufferings, I am saying, undergirded Job so that he would not abandon his faith.

David wrote of Christ prophetically in Psalm 69, verses 19-21, of Christ's very thoughts and words in His prayer to His Father as He hung on the cross – “You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; my adversaries are all before You.” “Reproach has broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.” “They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” The Lord Jesus was bearing the reproaches of wicked men who were reproaching God for His choosing to send His only-begotten Son to bear our sins in His body on the tree. This reproach broke Christ's heart. The reproaches of those who reproached Thee, fell upon Me.

All of this was for our sakes. I hope that you will remember these sufferings when you come into great trials and testings of your faith, and you are misunderstood by your Christian friends. They may mistakenly think that the greatness of your trial has come upon you as something that you deserved because of some sin that you have not confessed. And it may not at all be the case. The Lord has done this to refine you in His holy fire. He has done this so that you might grow up into Christ.

Remember the hymn – Jesus, what a friend for sinners, Jesus, lover of my soul. Friends may fail me, foes assail me. He, my strength, my victory is. Christ is with you in your trial. And since this is the case, you can pray and say to God the words of Psalm 40, verse 17 – “But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinks upon me.” “You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.”

2nd – Christ suffered and died in order to have dominion over all creatures.

Verses 7-9 – “But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain

to you.” “Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?” Job is speaking an evident truth to his friends; that all the creatures of the field, the birds of the air, the earth itself, and all the fishes of the sea, they all know that God orders all things concerning their existence. He providentially orders all things regarding their existence and their being provided for in their continuance in life. I want you to see this more in depth, and so turn over with me to Psalm 8, and we will see how all these creatures who Job mentions are described in relation to God and Christ.

“O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!” “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.” “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him “For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.” “You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen – even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.” “O Lord our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!”

Now, you can see, can't you, that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord who is our Lord, has the Most Excellent name in all the earth. The Father has set His glory above the heavens. He had this most excellent name in all the earth, from all eternity as God the Son. All things were created through Him and for Him, Paul says, in Colossians 1: 16. He is before all things and in Him all things consist. During the time of His earthly ministry, later on, when the time was drawing near for His passion, that is His going to the cross, He came into the temple, as it is recorded in Matthew 21: 14 and following, and He healed the blind and lame people who came to Him in the temple.

But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! They were indignant and said to Him, ‘Do You hear what these are saying?’ “And Jesus said to them, ‘Yes, have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’” Jesus was quoting from this Psalm that I just read to you, Psalm 8, verse 2. Praise was being perfected by the little children for their Creator and their Savior. This is the way that we ought to think of Christ; in this exalted way. He is the One, who because of the excellent glory of His Person as the Creator, is to be given praise.

When we consider the fact that He created the heavens, the moon and the stars, why should He consider us? Because He is so gloriously great, and because He considers all that He creates very carefully. Even the sheep and the oxen – the beasts of the field. Even the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea. He considers them very minutely, in all their details of life. And the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor, and has made Him to have dominion over the works of His hands. He has given all things into Christ's hands. And so, this is why Job says – Ask the beasts and they will teach you, and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; that God had done this to him.

He believed in the sovereignty of God! He very much believed this! And yet he could not understand why God was putting him through this trial. He very much needed to understand that Christ was establishing His dominion over Satan in this very situation that He was going through. You see this if you will turn with me over to Hebrews chapter 2, verse 10 and following. “For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” “For both He who sanctifies, and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of

the assembly I will sing praise to You.” “And again: ‘I will will put My trust in Him.’” “And again: ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.’”

Oh, how precious is this truth, that God has given to His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, children. He has been given dominion over all creatures. And we who believe in Him are His spiritual children. Job was not made perfect through his own sufferings in any way than through Christ. Job had been given to Christ before the foundation of the world in the Covenant of Redemption, and in and through the Covenant of Grace which Christ fulfilled by shedding His blood for Job, he purchased dear Job, and all of us who believe in Him. He has brought Job to glory, and He is bringing us to glory because He has completed the work of His sufferings.

He lay dead in the tomb so that we might die to sin. And He rose from the dead, so that we might be justified, declared righteous by faith in Him. And the work of our sanctification rest upon Him too. He is not ashamed to call us His brethren. He has declared the Father’s name and His purpose in the midst of His brethren, which is, to bring us to glory. In order to bring us to glory, we must be sanctified as well as justified. We must follow our Captain and endure hardship as good soldiers of Christ Jesus. We must do battle with the world, the flesh, and the Devil, and overcome. But He will give us grace to do that very thing. And this is why we need to remember Him now in the Supper.

3rd – Christ suffered and died in order that we overcome the Devil.

In Job chapter 12, verses 9 and 10 Job says – “Who among all these creatures does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing?” Job was in great consternation because he did not know why God was tearing his life apart. But he did know that his life was in God’s hand. He only needed to be reminded of God’s loving care and perfect discernment of all that He was going through, and trust in Lord, that He would reveal His purpose in time, and quietly wait.

We have come here to remember the Lord Jesus. Well, listen to what He says in Matthew 6: 25 – “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will put on” “Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” “Look at the birds of the air; for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.” “Are you not of more value than they? Let us remember at this time that we are of more value than the birds of the air. Let us believe that God does all things well, and He does them all perfectly through our Lord Jesus Christ. Job came into this situation that he was in, because Satan, the accuser of the brethren, wanted to prove that Job was not the man of integrity that God said that he was. But Satan was proved wrong. How did Job come through this most awful time? By faith in Christ, as much as he knew of Him.

We will overcome by faith in Christ as well. Listen to Hebrews 2: 14-18 – “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” “For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.” “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

As we partake of this Supper, let us remember that Christ through His cross destroyed the Devil in regard to his having the power to destroy our lives, or ultimately defeat us through his temptations. Christ was tempted by the Devil and He overcame. And now, when we trust in Him, we shall overcome him ourselves, by the power that Christ will give to us during the time of our own temptations. He is our faithful High Priest. He has made propitiation for the sins of all of His people. And because He suffered, being tempted, He will give us aid in the times when we are tempted.

