

**Job 6: 1-10; “My Grief Fully Weighed”, Sermon # 12 in the series entitled –
“Remember to Magnify His Work”, Delivered by Pastor Paul
Rendall on June 14th, 2020, in the Afternoon Worship.**

It is my purpose this afternoon to weigh the grief of Job and grief of our Lord Jesus Christ on the same scales together, where they ought to be. How heavy was the grief of Job! He says, “heavier than the sand of the sea”, in verse 3. It has been my object to show you, in these sermons on Job that in terms of his sufferings, that Job is a type of Christ. Job was a blameless man, a man who was upright; fearing God and turning away from evil. Our Lord Jesus Christ was a Perfect Man who never sinned in any thought, word, or deed, but was upright in His heart continually, and righteous in all of His ways before God His Father. I would like to show you this afternoon that it was because Christ bore Job’s griefs and carried his sorrows, that he was able to continue to see God as his strength and his hope in this tremendous trial that he was going through.

1st of all – I want to speak to you about Job’s grief and the terrors of the Lord arrayed against him. (verse 3) 2nd – I want to speak to you of the arrows of the Almighty that were within him. (verses 4-7) 3rd – I want to speak about Job’s prayer that it would please God to crush him (verses 8-10) May it please our Lord to visit our hearts with His Spirit’s illuminating power, so that we will together learn more about the greatness of Christ’s death, and what He died to purchase for us, that we might bear up under all of our sufferings.

1st of all – I want to speak to you about Job’s grief.

In verse 3 Job says – “Oh, that my grief were fully weighed, and my calamity laid with it on the scales!” “For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea – Therefore my words have been rash.” Here Job confesses to his friends why it was that he had he had questioned why God had allowed him to be born. He confesses why he had said – Let the day perish on which I was born. It was because of his grief. Grief is extreme sadness which goes on and on until it can be assuaged by the comforts and words of men or the comforts and words of God. Now, I believe that Eliphaz and Bildad and Zophar should have easily been able to have easily seen what they needed to do in this situation. I am absolutely convinced that they should not have started out on this quest to prove that Job was guilty of some terrible sin, and that that was why God had brought these judgments upon him of losing his children, losing all of his possessions, and losing his health.

What an important lesson it is, for every Christian, and every Christian man especially, to learn how they should react when they see grief in others . They should sympathize with it, and study to know how they might show understanding, love, compassion, pity, and brotherly kindness to the person going through the grief that they are seeing. Some people actually think that crying is for sissys, that a man should never cry; he should never grieve no matter what great loss he has suffered. And he must not allow himself to show any feelings toward the grief of others. But if you know the Lord, you know that He was a Man who showed sorrow at the appropriate time. He wept when He came to the tomb of Lazarus, even though he knew that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead.

Indeed, we read in Isaiah chapter 53, verse 3, that even though He was a perfect Man, that “He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” “And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.” Ah, when Jesus was engaging in His holy ministry on our behalf, there were many things that He went through that He did not deserve to go through. Why was He so despised of men? It was because He was perfect in everything that He said and did, and yet people did not see it clearly, nor did they want to see, that perfection that was in Jesus. They thought that he was a man just like themselves. And they thought that he had to go along with their sinful self-righteous ways of thinking about how to know God. And so when He did not, they attempted to bring Him down; tried to degrade His majesty, and speak evil of His holiness and His righteous deeds and words, even to His face.

This must have made Him very sad, because He came representing the Father's love for sinful men everywhere. And so as He went on through His earthly ministry knowing that He would have to bear all of this rejection for our sakes; for the sake of all of the elect sinners of this world whom the Father had chosen. He knew that He had to go to the cross, and suffer there. And when it came that time, He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, and it says in Matthew chapter 26, verse 37 – "And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed." "Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.'" "Stay here and watch with Me." "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'"

You see, Jesus had His three friends there, and they were good men; they believed in Him. But they, because of spiritual weakness fell asleep when they should have been watching and praying. They could not watch with Him for even one hour, even though it was the most critical hour, and so Jesus had to ask them twice not to fall asleep. Yet they slept on. Christ's soul was sorrowful, even until death. He was sorrowful for our sakes. He was, as it says in Isaiah 53: 4 – bearing our griefs and carrying our sorrows; the sorrows which we really experience when we are not only guilty of sin, but we are also experiencing loss and grief related to our having been a righteous person doing the right thing. This is what was happening to Job. And this is why he said to his friends – Oh, that my grief were fully weighed. Job was becoming more like Christ, wasn't he, in His experience.

Now, it was not as though Job's three friends did not know the Lord; they did. But they were not weighing Job's grief as they should have. They were more interested in assuming that there was some guilt involved in Job's conduct than they were in comforting their friend while he was going through this terrible experience. They had seen that his grief was very great when they first came to meet with him. They had sat down with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights with him. They had not spoken a word to him during that whole time, but it was after Job had opened his mouth and cursed the day that he was born, that Eliphaz thought that it was time to speak up. Surely, he thought – Job you are guilty. But we know that he was not.

If we were to take the time to go back and look at his discourse with Job in chapters 4 and 5 you will find that all that Eliphaz was doing in those two chapters was to act as a prosecuting attorney toward Job. There is hardly a word of comfort in all of the words that he spoke to Job. Instead, he added to Job's grief by starting out, from the beginning of his words, with trying to prove that somehow Job was inconsistent in his godliness and perhaps even a hypocrite. With a friend like this, who needs friends? He says in chapter 4, verse 3 – "Surely you have instructed many and you have strengthened weak hands." "Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have strengthened the feeble knees; but now it comes upon you, and you are weary; it touches you, and you are troubled."

Do you see how Eliphaz is trying to insinuate that Job is not being patient, that he is being inconsistent in his godliness; that he, the one who had comforted, strengthened and encouraged many in the past, now when it happened to him, he was troubled. And we must ask – Shouldn't Job have been troubled? Yes, I believe that he should have been, in every way! Then Eliphaz goes on to talk about reverence for God in verse 6. Is not reverence your confidence? And the integrity of your ways your hope? Well, yes it was in every way! And Job had been a man who feared God and was turning away from evil. But instead of Eliphaz believing that Job was a man of integrity any longer, he slyly says in verse 7 – "Remember now, who ever perished being innocent?"

And he goes on to insinuate some things that were even worse. He says – "Or where were the upright ever cut off?" "Even as I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same." As if this is what Job had done. My friends, we as Christian brethren have got to do better than this man Eliphaz did when our brethren are going through trials, and we do not know the reason for it. We must, by the grace of Christ be those who show love to them. Love bears all things, believes all things, and hopes all things. Love never fails. Eliphaz goes even farther than this in his false analysis of Job's very awful situation. In chapter 4, verses 12-21, he tells Job about

a spirit who came him in visions of the night and who terrified him by coming close to him and making him afraid; a spirit who said – Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker? If he puts no trust in His servants, and if He charges His angels with error, how much more those who dwell in houses of clay? He is as much as saying – God sent one of his angels to me last night Job, and he as much as told me, that you were trying to be more righteous than God, more pure than your Maker in your self-righteousness. But he did not stop to consider the fact that as he said in verse 16, that he could discern this spirit’s appearance.

Was this one of the good angels of God who came to Eliphaz? I can hardly think so. Because when a holy angel of God comes to a person, they usually say to them – Do not be afraid. And then they give them a message from God. They do not come in, in darkness so that you cannot discern their appearance. They come in, as holy angels of light! And especially in this case where God knew the reason why Job was suffering so much. God knew why he was so very grieved about these things had happened to him. He would never have sent such a spirit to say those things to Eliphaz when He knew that Job was a God-fearing, righteous man. No, it was Satan who either was this spirit, or sent this spirit to Eliphaz. And my brethren, we must not allow ourselves to be deceived by Satan disguising himself as an angel of light. I want you to see that it was not Eliphaz who was bearing Job’s grief at this time; a grief that was heavier to him than the sand of the sea; it was the Lord Jesus who was bearing it, so that Job would not be completely overcome by the Devil. Even so, let us know that Christ has borne all of our griefs and carried all of our sorrows at the cross.

2nd – I want to speak to you of the arrows of the Almighty that were within Job.

In verse 3b, Job says – “Therefore my words have been rash, for the arrows of the Almighty are within me; my spirit drinks in their poison; the terrors of God are arrayed against me.” “Does the wild donkey bray when it has grass, or does the ox low over its fodder?” “Can flavorless food be eaten without salt?” “Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?” “My soul refuses to touch them; they are as loathsome food to me.” Job is explaining to Eliphaz and his friends why his words have been rash. It is because the arrows of the Almighty, he says, are within him, and his spirit drinks their poison. The terrors of God are arrayed against him. Now, we find here that sometimes even the best of saints will misinterpret the providence of God and the things that He ordains as being against them, rather than for them. Job is willing to express the rashness of his speech. But he wrongly believes that these things that Satan has done to him are poisoned arrows which have been shot at him, and they have hit him; they have accomplished that which he believes God has ordered.

But Job did not see the great contest going on behind the scenes between God and Satan about Job’s integrity. And neither can you or I. It is true that God does permit Satan at times to afflict His saints. But we need to remember that God’s purpose is not to poison our souls, as Satan’s is. His purpose is build faith and to bring forth through the trial, proven character. In doing this God is good in the highest sense. And Satan in his actions are always evil in the most awful sense. Let us praise God today as we partake of the Lord’s Supper that our God is a God who overcomes evil with good. He is the God who shoots arrows of His love into the hearts of all of saints who are suffering for the cause of righteousness and truth. Let us learn from Job, just how wrong He was about God at this point.

All of the terrors of God were arrayed against His own dear Son at the cross, so that Job would not only be sustained during this awful trial, but that he would indeed eventually triumph over Satan through it. Job spoke rashly before, and he spoke rashly here in saying that the terrors of God were arrayed against him. It was actually the terrors of being attacked by the evil one, and not understanding how or why God could permit it, that will bother every saint the most. It is because every knowledgeable and wise Christian knows that God is sovereign, that he becomes troubled. He sometimes may become downcast and overwhelmed by knowing that even though he has tried to be consistent in righteousness and holiness, that still he is not perfect. Yet Job had made so much progress in righteousness and holiness that God was boasting about him, to Satan, behind

the scenes. Let us realize, my dear friends, that Satan is always pure evil in the way that he acts, and that God is always pure wisdom and love in all of His acts in relation to His saints.

This is why we should study to justify God in all of our trials, and try to attempt to bring encouragement to all of God's dear people who are going through, or who will go through, manifold trials and temptations. Let us tell them not to thinking badly of God, as they go through this life. Let us see that the wild donkey does not bray if it has grass. Let us consider that the ox will not low if it has its fodder. Let us remember how much better it is when we are able to eat flavorless food with salt. Is there anything to taste in the white of an egg Job asks in verse 6? He is saying that his soul refused to touch these speeches of Eliphaz'; that they were like loathsome food to him, because his grief was not assuaged by his words; the words which had no encouragement in them. He could not get anything out of his words because they did not address the truth of his integrity before God, Instead they slandered him. Let us study, I am saying my brethren, to think of how we might bring helpful truth and real encouragement to God's people as they go through their trials.

Colossians 4, verse 6 – "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Let me remind you, faithful Christian, that Christ died in order to bear all the terrors of the God, related to all of your sins. As He was dying, the Father was making His Son the target for His arrows of wrath to hit. He was drinking in all of the poison of your sins. He was suffering to bear your sorrows and your griefs. He was dying, bearing the burden that would be heavy for you to bear. It is the Lord Jesus whose spirit fully drank in the poison of Satan's arrows, which were fired against Him at the cross. Satan thought to overcome our Lord there, but he was himself defeated and cast out of His position of being the ruler of this world. It is not as though Job did not feel his spirit being poisoned with Satan's arrows; he did. But he would receive grace to bear up under that grievous pain of Satan's attacks, even when he thought that they were coming to him from God Himself! Now, let us come down front and I will give you a few more works there about Job's request that God would crush him.

3rd – I want to speak to you about Job's prayer that it would please God to crush him.
(verses 8-10)

Job says here in verse 8 – Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant me the thing that I long for!" "That it would please God to crush me, that He would loose His hand and cut me off!" "Then I would still have comfort; though in anguish I would exult, He will not spare; for I have have not concealed the words of the Holy One." These are amazing words, are they not? And how true they were. Job was in so much grief and pain from the attacks of Satan upon him that he wanted to die. He wanted God to crush him, and loose His hand and cut him off from continuing to live. He was not disowning or denying his faith in God when he said this. Rather He wanted his trial to end, and for God to explain it to him. Even though he knew that he would experience anguish in God's doing this, he would exult, knowing that he had not concealed the words of the Holy One from anyone. He had been a faithful witness to the truth. And truly this is the way for you to look at the great trials that you go through as well. You may feel like you want the Lord to take you home to be with Him, but you should know that you must have right motives for asking this. God may have good reasons for your continuing to live. The greatest reason is always – To be a witness to His truth. "For I have not concealed the words of the Holy One." I have not denied Him.

This is why you should often remember what it cost your Lord, if you want to glorify God in the most difficult of your trials. The reason that you will pray to be given grace to live, and continue on, even when you feel like dying, will only be because the Lord Jesus went to the cross and died for you. And if you do happen to come to a place where you feel like saying to the Lord that you want Him to crush you, remember what it says in Isaiah chapter 53, verse 10 – "Yet it pleased the Lord to crush Him," that is the Lord Jesus, "He has put Him to grief." And the reason? That "he shall see His seed, and prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand." It will be by your remembering Christ, that you will find the strength and grace to continue on.

