

FAITHFUL IN PHYSICAL ILLNESS

July 7, 2019 Job 2:1-10 by Bob Branch

Thinking About Suffering with Faith and Truth, part 2

BIG IDEA: In the midst of physical pain, suffering and loss, remaining faithful to God—focused on and loyal to him—our bull’s eye!

¹ On another day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and ^{the} satan also came with them to present himself before him. And the Lord said to the satan, “Where have you come from?” ^{The} satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

³ Then the Lord said to ^{the} satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

In times of hardship/loss, what is God looking for from us?

1. God wants you to remain _____ to him.

“God’s people must be patient and remain faithful.”

Revelation 13:10

⁴ “Skin for skin!” ^{the} satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. ⁵ But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

⁶ The Lord said to ^{the} satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

God Permits and Limits the activity.

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” **2 Cor. 4:8-9**

⁷ So ^{the} satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. ⁸ Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

2. Invisible evil can _____ physical suffering in our visible world.

“He saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for 18 years and was unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!” Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!” **Luke 13:11-13** NLT

⁹ His wife said, “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!”

“My breath is repulsive to my wife.” **Job 19:17** LEB

3. Our suffering has a _____ on those close to us.

¹⁰ He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

4. Suffering _____ our ideas about God.

What is going on underneath the surface of things?

“Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him” **Job 13:15**

WHAT EVIL CAN DO?

Job introduces us to the idea that invisible evil can impact the visible world. For the sake of clarity, *what can evil do in this world's realm?* In the NT, **Satan is a localized spiritual being**. You won't deal with him directly, but some lesser spiritual being—minion, although not cute! The **Range** of spiritual evil's impact the Bible teaches (more like a spectrum)

- **Ideology**—Evil works within the world system to create ideas, beliefs, structures and values to lure and coerce people to live without/move away from God. He drives the world to extremes.
- **Temptation**—Evil works in cooperation with our flesh desires, luring us away from God. “Did God really say?” “What’s the harm in...”
- **Accusation**—Evil bombards with lies, falsehood, half-truths, berating, condemning, creating self-hatred. “you are worthless, ugly, despised”
- **Oppression**—Evil presses/pressures and harasses us mentally and emotionally with seemingly no let up. Evil drives. The Shepherd leads.
- **Affliction**—Evil can sometimes push physical illness and disease on us, working in cooperation with our sin (and the sins of others)
- **Infestation**—Evil infests every area of life we yield with a strategy of total bondage. Termites don't own the house, but can take it down.
- **Domination**—Evil wants to own every area of your life, total dominion—like the Gadarene demoniac.

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” —**C. S. Lewis**, *The Screwtape Letters*