

Kenny Moorer - Job Learns Of God's Sovereignty

I want you to turn to Job the first chapter. Blake read from the 42nd chapter. He read from the end. I want to go back to the beginning of the book. And we're going to we're going to read quite a bit this morning, but we're going to look at some things that I think are very important and maybe just make one primary point as we think about all this. Beginning in Job, the first chapter we read, "there was a man in the land of us whose name was Job. And that man was blameless and upright and one who feared God and shunned evil, and seven sons and three daughters were born to him. Also, his possessions were 7000 Sheep 3000 camels 500 yoke of oxen 500 female donkeys in a very large household so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the Lord."

I could read on, and it would, I think it would make the point and make the point even stronger, but I think that's enough. What the text tells us is that Job was the greatest of all the people in the east.

I think that's interesting, because that's what dreams are inspiration tells us he was the greatest of all the people in the east. When we get to verse six down to verse 12. What you see is that Satan comes to God and He says you have put ahead around Job and as a result, that's why he honors you. That's why he worships you.

So, I'm asking you, Lord, what I'm asking you will you allow me to do to him, whatever that it is that I wanted it to test him and certainly we are very familiar with what happens. God grants Satan's request. And when you get to verse 123 things begin to change drastically. Verse 13: "There was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house. And a messenger came to Job and said the oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding in beside them when the Sabeans raided them and took them away. And they killed the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to you. While they were still speaking another also came and said the fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them and I alone have escaped to tell you. While they were still speaking another also came and said the Chaldeans form three bands rated the camels took them away, yes and killed the servants with the edge of the sword and I alone have escaped to tell you. While he was still speaking another also came and said, your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house and it fell on the young people and they're dead. And I

alone have escaped to tell you. And then Job arose, tore his robe and shaved his head, fell to the ground and worshipped and he said, Naked and I come from my mother's room and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away Blessed be the name of the Lord." And then we're told that in all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

If you're not moved by what happened to Job, then I don't think you can be moved. All of us to some degree or another have suffered loss. Things have gone awry in our lives, and we don't typically know how to respond, at least not initially. It's hard. But what happened to him has not happened to us. I mean, he pretty much lost everything. He lost his children. He lost his servants, he lost his livestock, he lost his property. They're all either dead or destroyed. And so, he is devastated as all of us would be. Most of the book of Job I think is a record of a series of conversations between Job and himself. Between Job and in this case, his wife, his spouse. Job and his friends. And there appear to be at least four who are called by name specifically in this book, and between Job and God. It's exactly what we do. We talk to our family. When things happen, we talk to our family if we're married typically would talk to a spouse or not talk to our children. We talk to other members of our family, but we talk to family because they know that we know they care about us and they're going to tell us what we ought to hear, not always what we want to hear but what we ought to hear. So that typically is a good thing. And we'll talk to our friends, and we will talk to God, and we will talk to ourselves.

You are not unaware that in my lifetime, I have personally dealt with circumstances that have affected me personally. Been very hard, very difficult. And the conversations that I remember, with exception, probably of one, were conversations that I had with myself. And ultimately, I had those conversations because ultimately, I'm the only one that can get me out of what I'm going through with God's help. But I've got to I've got to be assured that what I'm thinking about is based upon what God said, but yet I've got to tell myself or if you will, I've got to talk to myself and that's what Job did. And that's just what we do when we're devastated. And what Job wants early on. There's a lot of ways to package it. There are a lot of ways I think to articulate it and it's not an easy book to outline. There are speeches and their rebuttals, and there are more speeches and some of the same people and then another one takes over. That's and I mean, it's kind of hard to outline. But the fact of the matter is there are a series of opportunities in the book to listen to what Job is telling himself and what others are telling him. So, when you get to chapter 23, and I'd like for you to turn there if you would just Job 23. Early on, Job wants an explanation. You ever wanted an explanation? You ever talk to God and say God, I need an explanation. There are certain

things that have happened in my life, and I need I need some clarity, I need some help. I need somebody, you specifically, to tell me what it is that I need to understand about what's happened to me. And so, Job wants an opportunity to plead his case. He in essence, he makes arguments. This is what chapter 23 is really all about. He wants to meet God in a courtroom. He wants to make arguments and he wants to present his case and he thinks he has a very good case.

Listen in chapter 23 Listen to these first seven verses "Then Job answered and said even today, my complaint is bitter. My hand is listless because of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him. That I might come to his seat, and I would present my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the word which he would answer me and understand what he would say to me. Will he contend with me in his great power? No. But he would take note of me. There the upright person could reason with him, and I would be delivered forever from my judge." And so, what Job says is that I just want to talk Lord. I just need to have a conversation with you. And that's not what happens - not initially. That's not what happens. It seemed like quite a simple request. But verses eight and nine tell us that God's nowhere to be found because the text says look, "I go forward but he's not there and backward but I cannot perceive him when he works on the left hand I cannot be hold him but when he turns to the right hand I cannot see him." You ever wanted God to talk with you and to deal with you? And the harder you try, the worse it gets? I guarantee you there are many in this audience who understand what I just said. You've gone through the difficulties, and you've tried to speak to God and that says you're in a courtroom and you're making your case and while you're making your case, you're thinking he doesn't hear me. He doesn't hear me. He's nowhere to be found.

And then verse 10 to 12 says something that I find very interesting, and I think this is what happens to us. Verse 10 to 12. "But he knows the way that I take when he has tested me, I shall come forth as gold my foot has held fast to his steps. I have kept his way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the commandment of his lips. I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." You see what Job was saying? He said I know how I feel but that's not the reality. This is not the reality. Job has not rejected God or walked away from God. I think that when we go through difficulties, this group, in my judgment, are people of faith. And when you and I go through the difficulties I don't think we I don't think we run away from God. I don't think we throw up our hands and say Lord, I've been trying you're not there. I'm giving up. I don't think we do that. I don't think Job did that. And these verses that we just read, I think indicate that to me. Job recognizes God's

sovereignty. Listen to 13 and 14 at the same chapter "But he is unique. Who can make him change?" Let me just make a statement about the word unique. The word unique does not mean rare. He's not rare. He's unique. He's the one and only. He's the one and only God and there are no others like him. He is unique. Don't use the term unique to mean rare. That's not what it means. It means he's the one and he is the only and Job says "but he is unique. And who can make him change? And whatever his soul desires that he does, for he performs what is appointed for me, and many such things are with him."

Job recognizes the sovereignty of God. I don't like that term. But yet I have to accept it. The idea of sovereign means he has he has total rule. He's unique. It's his. It's his decision to make exclusively. And Job I think understood that because when you get to verse 15 through 17 Listen to what Joe says 15 "Therefore I am terrified at his presence. When I consider this, I am afraid of him, for God made my heart weak and the Almighty terrifies me because I was not cut off from the presence of darkness and he did not hide the darkness from my face." Job was terrified. He was terrified. He didn't lose faith, but he was terrified. I think that's exactly what happens to us. We don't lose faith, at least most of the time. We don't lose faith. We don't abandon God, but we are terrified because we don't know exactly what's going on. And all that I've talked to you about to this point brings me to another question. It's a question that Job asked, and I want to talk about it for just a minute: Why does God choose to do what he does? Or maybe another question is why does God choose to not do what we want him to do. All sorts of ways to ask the question. Why doesn't God do something when we need him to do something. Because he is sovereign. Because he knows about you better than you know about yourself. And he knows what he needs to do to help you more than you know what he needs to do to help. And that's a hard lesson. Why doesn't God do something? Verse one and chapter 24 "Seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty. Why did those who know him see not his days?" Now Job's going to he's going to talk about this evil man and the problems that come I just want you I want to read that with you. Look at the beginning of verse two. Chapter 24. Here's what Job says happens to the evil person. "Some removed landmarks, they seize flocks violently and feed on them. They drive away the donkey of the fatherless. They take the widows ox as a pledge, they push the needy off the road. All the poor of the land are forced to hide indeed, like wild donkeys in the desert. They go out to their work searching for food. The wilderness yields food for them and for their children. They gather their fodder in the field and glean in the vineyard of the wicked. They spend the night naked and without clothing and have no covering in the cold. They are wet with the showers in the mountains and huddled around the rock for warm shelter." Can you imagine they're unclothed, and they push themselves up next to the mountain where basically the water is running off the side. And they're trying

to get away from the elements. And as they get closer to the side the water begins to drip and so they're not only are they cold, but they're wet and it's because they're trying but there's nothing they can do. When you get to verse 12, the text says the "dying groan in the city and the souls of the wounded cry out yet God does not charge them with wrong."

Job always, it seems to me, has some level of understanding. I think sometimes we paint Job in a poor light to say well he's abandoned God I really don't think he ever abandoned God. I think he questioned God I think he was struggling with God, but I don't think he abandoned God because he knew he didn't have a better a better choice. He didn't have a better option and neither do we. He always has some level of understanding about why God does what he does, and I think we do too. So, when you get to verse 22, Chapter 24 It says, "But God draws the mighty away with his power he rises up, but no man is sure of life. He gives them security and they rely on it. His eyes are on their ways, they are exalted for a little while and then they're gone. They are brought low. They're taken out of the way like all others. They dry out like the heads of grain. Now if it is not so who will prove me a liar and make my speech worth nothing." You see, you see what he's doing? He's saying I know how I feel. But he was going to prove me a liar. I know that what I'm saying is true even though it's hard. Even though it's hard. As I'm going to say for probably the third time today is I think I see in Job what I see in you and me. We struggle. We ask. And we ask why. And yet, when it's all said and done, we understand that God hears us. The struggle is hard. As we talked about even last week, the wilderness is a trial. But God is all powerful. He's all knowing and will always keep his word and we have to accept that.

This is one of these lessons that I think about once every quarter I need to preach something like this to remind us to not lose hope and always be confident to put our trust in God. And that's what Job did. Blake read from the last chapter, those first few verses of chapter 42. Verse two, chapter 42 Job said "and I know that you can do everything that no purpose of yours can be withheld from you. You asked who this is who hides counsel without knowledge?" And he says, "Therefore I've uttered what I did not understand. Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please and let me speak, you said I will question you, and you shall answer me. I've heard you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you. Therefore, I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes." There's a lot to be said about Job.

When I call this to your attention this morning sometimes I know why I preach what I do, and this is one of those times. I had a conversation last week with a dear friend who is struggling, and we talked about some of these very things. And he knows he knows why. He knows that God is sovereign. He's got to deal with that. And he accepts that. And I would encourage us, no matter our circumstances to accept what God is doing for us knowing that he's doing what is best and accept that. I know it's hard, but I would encourage us to do that. And I want to say one more personal thing. When it happens to me. When I'm going through something, when I'm dealing with the very things that I've talked to you about, I need you to help me. I need you to talk to me. I need you to pull me back. I need you to help me understand what I've said, and I'll do the same for you. That's part of what being a part of the family is all about. My god help us to that end. If you're in this audience this morning and you're not a Christian, we would beg you and strongly encourage you to become one as we always do was sing a song invitation and if you have not been washed in the blood come this morning and do that. While we stand and while we sing.