

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

APRIL 11, 2021 // UNWAVERING



THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs kicked off the new series, *Unwavering: Trusting God in the Trials*, with a message from the book of Job. Job was an extremely wealthy man, with a wife and ten children. He was also God's example of a great man of faith. When Satan declared he could turn anyone and everyone against God, God allowed him to test Job, knowing he would stand faithful. So Satan set out to destroy Job's faith by taking everything from him. Thieves took his oxen, donkeys, and camels, fire killed his flock of sheep, all the ranch hands and shepherds were killed, and finally his ten children were killed when they were celebrating the oldest son's birthday. Job had it all and lost everything, except his faith. In all this loss, he held onto his God and praised his name. Praised him! Not for the great suffering, but for knowing God was with him through it all, and would be there still.

An UNWAVERING faith in the midst of trials:

1. Will not eliminate the pain.
2. Will not stop the questions.
3. Will give you strength to endure and persevere.

SCRIPTURES: JOB 1, NIV

¹In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. ²He had seven sons and three daughters, ³and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

⁴His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

⁶One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. ⁷The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

⁸Then the Lord said to 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."

⁹"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

¹²The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

¹³One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ^{14a} messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵and the Sabceans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

²⁰At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
may the name of the Lord be praised."

²²In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." -James 1:12 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What new thoughts did Marty's message prompt in you?
2. Read Job 1:1-12. How would you describe Job? How did God describe Job, and what was Satan's response?
3. Read Job 1:13-19. How did Satan try to destroy not only Job's life, but his trust in God? What would you expect Job's reaction to be?
4. Where have you seen those who love and trust in God lose loved ones, livelihoods, or suffered great loss of another kind? (This could be your personal story.)
5. Read Job 1:20-22. How did Job respond to all he lost? How does this compare to others you know suffering great loss? (similarities and differences)
6. Read James 1:12. What hope is there for those who trust God in the midst of trials? How does this encourage you in your faith?
7. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank God for examples of strong and unwavering faith in his Word. Thank him, also, for not being afraid of our questions in the midst of trials, but for being with us as we go through them. Ask him to be with any of those who need unwavering faith, to give you/them strength to persevere and hold on to God, and for the hope that is ahead.