

**FRIDAY, August 13, 2010:**

*When Your Omega moment comes: be gracious*

Job 42:11 *"And all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him...."*

Max Reger, an early-twentieth century German classical composer, is better known today for his response to a critic than for his music. He wrote...

*"Dear Sir: I am sitting in the smallest room of my house. Your review is before me. Shortly it shall be behind me."*

Think about that a minute and you'll get it 😊.

I wonder how Job must have felt when all his family and old friends started showing up when things got better. He probably was tempted to respond like Mr. Reger, but thankfully he took the high road.

I've witnessed this phenomenon happen many times. When people are going through tough times, people have a way of disappearing and then when things smooth out they have a way of showing back up. What to do? Be gracious. Remember, like you, most people don't know to respond trouble, sickness and death. They're not trained and they often are afraid they will do and say the wrong thing.

Whatever their reasons, be gracious; don't taint the blessings and favor of God on your life by seeking revenge or being ungracious. The "high road" has a much better view.

**SCRIPTURE: Colossians 4:5**

**SATURDAY, August 14, 2010:**

*When Your Omega moment comes: be generous*

Job 42:15 *"And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers."*

In the few short verses given to us to describe Job's "omega experience" a surprising amount of detail is given about his relationship with his daughters.

That is not surprising. There is (or should be) a special bond between daughters and their fathers.

But what is especially noteworthy is that he included them in his will. In the patriarchal society that Job lived, it was not customary for daughters to inherit any of their father's possessions. Yet Job went against the customs of that day and included his girls in the estate.

Why? I believe it was more than just a father's love for his daughters. I'm sure that there were many loving dads who still followed the norm of that day. I believe that there is a deeper reason. Job remembered what it was like to be disinherited by family and friends. He knew what it was like to have nothing and be nothing; and when God's blessings restored him, he used his wealth and influence to bless others.

That is a good lesson for us today. If the truth be told, blessing others is a greater blessing.

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:35**



**Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of August 8, 2010*

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

*What I am thankful for this week:*

MONDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

TUESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDNESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY: \_\_\_\_\_



**MONDAY, August 9, 2010:**

Job 41:34 *"He beholds every high thing; he is king over all the children of pride."*

A few days ago Tina Nash, one of our dedicated volunteers in the children's ministries sent me an email sharing the following story:

*"I have to share something cute that took place in Faith Depot today in the second service. They brought the baptism up on the screens in Faith Depot and I saw the 1st grade girls in a serious conversation and when I went a little closer I heard Alexa Banks saying when you are **"bathmatised"** you become a new person and the other girls were saying, "No way that can't happen."*

*Then they ask me and I told them that Alexa was correct and explained why, and they all said cool and told me they had God in their hearts."*

No wonder Jesus said we must become as little children to enter the kingdom of Heaven. If the book of Job teaches anything it is that we will never get "grown-up" enough to figure out everything. There are some imponderables that are and will remain beyond our ability to comprehend. But one thing I know, God loves and cares for us and sometimes that has to be enough and like a trusting child we say, "Father knows best."

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:3**

**TUESDAY, August 10, 2010:**

Job 42:6 *"Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*

You know how I am about quotations. The following is one of my favorites:

*"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming...; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."*  
*Excerpt from a speech frequently called "The Man in the Arena," given by Theodore Roosevelt in Paris in 1910.*

The conclusion of all Job's questions and suffering are summed up in today's verse. When Job encountered God everything changed, there was nothing left to do but repent and bow at the feet of a sovereign God. However, I do want to make one point about Job...unlike his "comforters" he was at least in the arena. He may not have handled everything exactly right, but at least he kept at it until he got to God.

That is what a lot of you are doing. I don't know every need in our church but I know several "Jobs" right now that are going through tough times. I respect you highly. Keep fighting. Don't give up. One day God is going to show up and everything will change.

**SCRIPTURE: James 1:12**

**WEDNESDAY, August 11, 2010:**

*Your Omega moment*

Job 42:10 *"And the Lord restored Job's losses."*

Four times Jesus refers to himself as the alpha and the omega in the book of Revelation. You probably know that "alpha" was like the letter "a" in the English alphabet and "omega" is like the letter "z".

In other words, Jesus identifies himself as both the beginning of everything and the ending, and everything in between.

It is hard to believe, but we are almost finished with our study of the book of Job. We've reached the "omega" and it's a happy ending!

Perhaps you find yourself living in the book of Job. You're going through a tough time and you wonder if it will ever end...it will. You will one day have an omega moment when God says, "Enough." Trials aren't forever, storms blow over, hearts can heal, finances can be restored, grief can be processed, hope can be reborn and you can dream again.

The story of Job is a reminder that there is suffering in the world and good people are not exempt. However, it also teaches that dark nights of the soul are not forever; omega moments do eventually arrive.

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:13**

**THURSDAY, August 12, 2010:**

*When Your Omega moment comes: forgive*

Job 42:10 *"And the Lord restored Job's losses **when** he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before."*

Mount Everest is over 29,000 feet tall, but when you reach 26,250 feet, you enter what is called the death zone. There the altitude is so high it can't sustain human life. The body is unable to acclimate to such a low level of oxygen, so if you stay in the death zone too long, you die. That's what happened to a climber in May 2006. Not realizing the seriousness of his difficulties, he was left by his companions in the death zone while they ascended to the top of Everest. All the people who passed him realized he was in trouble, but they assumed he was part of another team and someone else would rescue him. Unfortunately, their assumptions lead to a death that did not have to happen.

The "Death zone" for the Christian is unforgiveness. There are people who could arrive at their "omega" moment if they would only forgive. Like Job, God will not restore them and heal them until they do. But unlike the man abandoned by his friends, no one can help you with this. No one can forgive someone for you; it is a choice that only you can make.

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:21-35**