

FRIDAY, August 20, 2010:

Living in the Book of Job: *Closing Observations about the book of Job...*

The third lesson is that refusing to become bitter and unforgiving is the key to turning your suffering into a blessing.

It is said that when Machiavelli was lying on his dying bed that the priest that was attending him asked him if he renounced the Devil. Machiavelli's answer was, "This is no time to be making new enemies."

Unfortunately I suspect that Machiavelli soon discovered that he should have renounced the Devil, but he does teach us a good lesson... when going through tough times don't make it worse by accumulating enemies.

One of the most powerful principles taught in the book of Job is the fact that before God would bless Job, Job had to first forgive and bless those that had been his tormenters.

Nothing has changed. Bitterness and unforgiveness does nothing but prolong the longevity and severity of your suffering. Let it go. God said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay."

Let God deal with the justice department; you forgive and get on with rebuilding your life.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:14-15

SATURDAY, August 21, 2010:

Living in the Book of Job: *Closing Observations about the book of Job...*

The fourth lesson I want to leave with you is that suffering is not forever if Jesus is your savior; but that suffering is forever without Him.

In 1995 scientists pointed the Hubble Space Telescope into an empty patch of black space about the size of a grain of sand just above the handle of the Big Dipper. They wanted to test the clarity and range of the Hubble and were shocked when the pictures came back. That little patch of empty space wasn't empty at all. The pictures revealed over a thousand previously unknown galaxies. Scientists now estimate there are more than 125 billion in the visible universe. Each one of those galaxies contains millions of stars.

I want to remind you that God is so much bigger than our today. Whether you are experiencing pain or pleasure or suffering or satisfaction, this life is but a moment in God's eternal plan for your life. If you remember but one thing from our study of Job let it be this:

Life without Christ is an eternal and hopeless end; but with Him it is an eternal and endless hope.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23:6

Next week we will start a new study from the New Testament book of Philipians.



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of August 15, 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 16, 2010:

Job 42:13 *"He also had seven sons and three daughters."*

One of the toughest parts of my job is officiating funerals. And the toughest funerals are funerals where I try to minister to parents that have the agonizing responsibility of burying a child.

That is why this verse is one of my most favorite verses in the entire Bible. You may have not caught why but let me explain...

Did you by chance notice that God restored back everything that Job lost and doubled it? That is except for his children. He did not double the number of children that Mr. & Mrs. Job lost. Ever wondered why? Because the first seven sons and three daughters were not really lost. They couldn't be replaced because they still existed. Through absent from this life they were still alive and God knew that one day Job would have them back in his arms again.

Property, possessions, and treasure can be replaced but our loved ones cannot, but praise be to God, they do not have to be – because there is life beyond this life.

One of the darkest, saddest days of my life was the day I stood with my parents as they buried their only daughter, my sister. Being a parent myself, in addition to my own sadness, I grieved for them. But I am so thankful that Beth does not need to be replaced...she is more alive today than I am...and so are your loved-ones.

SCRIPTURE: John 11:25

TUESDAY, August 17, 2010:

Job 42:17 *"So Job died, old and full of days."*

If you are lucky, you will grow old. That's right, you read that right. In a world that is obsessed with youth, I want to remind you that you are getting older everyday. You can fight it, hide it and ignore it, but it will do you no good...you are getting older.

The key is to "**grow old**" not just "get old." Like Job, I pray that your days will be full. As Art Linkletter in his book, "How to Make the Rest of Your Life the Best of Your Life" wrote:

"If you're very lucky, you'll grow so old that morticians will follow you around with a measuring tape to save time. You'll need a fire marshal on hand for your birthday cakes. When someone mentions they've spoke to you, people will gasp and exclaim, "Is he/she still alive?!" Now that's old ☺!

Growing old vs. just getting old means that as you age, you grow. You learn, you develop new passions, gain new wisdom, discover new things. You dare to take risk, make mistakes and learn from them to prepare for the next challenge. You make new relationships even as you lay to rest old and cherished ones. You take care of your body, exercise, eat right...you live!

"Getting old" means you fossilize, "growing old" means you maximize the life God has given you. The choice is yours.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 92:14

*Dedicated to Bill Walker

WEDNESDAY, August 18, 2010:

Living in the Book of Job: Closing observations about the book of Job...

As we wrap up our study of the book of Job, I want to conclude with four overarching lessons.

The first lesson is that suffering is part of life on earth.

Throughout my study of Job, I have, for the most part simply written to you from the experiences of my own heart and the whispers of the Holy Spirit. However, I did read and consult one devotional commentary as I made this journey.

As I logged in the front of the book the fact that I had read it, I noticed that I bought the book in 1986. Yet it took me fourteen years to get around to reading it. In my younger days, I just was not interested in the book of Job. I didn't want to think about suffering, more less write about it. It was only until I reached my fifties that I tackled this book.

If there is anything the book of Job teaches us, it is that suffering is a part of life here on earth. We can complain about it, rail against God and, keep asking why. But that is not going to change the reality of life here on earth.

The answer is to face up to the reality and focus not on "Why?" but "What?" and "How?"

What is God able to teach me in my suffering; and how can I, with God's help, turn my suffering into something good.

The Bible doesn't teach that it is easy, but it does teach that it is doable.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

THURSDAY, August 19, 2010:

Living in the Book of Job: Closing observations about the book of Job...

The second lesson is that when you are suffering, be prepared to deal with well meaning people who will try to "help".

I read a good example of this recently. It seems that the birth of the telephone was an exasperating experience for business leaders. For example, Joshua Coppersmith was arrested in Boston for attempting to sell stock in a company that would design and build telephones. His arrest was based on the fact that "well-informed people know it is impossible to transmit the human voice over a wire."

There will always be "well-informed" people giving you advice, especially when you are going through tough times. Listen politely if possible but then ask yourself, "What does God's word say about my situation?"

That is where you will find the answers that you are looking for.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:8