**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Can God Be Trusted in Your Troubles? |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Job 13:15 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2155 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Everyone has trouble.
      1. Most of us think that we have more trouble than we really have.
      2. Most of us think we that have more trouble than what other people have.
      3. But few people, if any, have ever had the trouble that Job had.
   2. In the midst of all of his troubles, sorrows, difficulties, brokenness, and perplexities, Job made an incredible statement concerning God.
      1. “*Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him*.”
         1. Job 13:15
   3. All of us know that God is necessary.
      1. We could not exist without Him.
   4. But the greatest question is this:
      1. Is God enough?
   5. God brings blessings, but He also allows troubles.
      1. Can God be trusted with our troubles?
   6. The devil thinks that anyone who serves God without some ulterior motive is a fool.
      1. Job 1:1-3
         1. The word “eschewed” in this passage means “turned from.”
   7. Job was the greatest of all men in the East.
      1. He was a great man spiritually.
      2. He was a great man financially.
      3. He was a great man domestically.
   8. The devil was suspicious of Job’s motives.
      1. He thought that Job served God only because God was good to him.
      2. He thought that God had bribed Job and bought him off.
   9. Job 1:6
      1. In the Bible, Satan is called “*the accuser of the brethren*.”
   10. Job 1:7-9
       1. The name “Satan” means “adversary.”
       2. Satan is still roaming the Earth today.
       3. Satan accused Job of having an ulterior motive for serving God.
   11. Job 1:10-11
       1. Satan challenged God concerning Job.
          1. He claimed that Job didn’t really love God or trust God.
          2. He claimed that God had just bought Job off.
       2. Satan knew that there was a hedge around Job because he had been trying to get through that hedge and couldn’t.
   12. Job 1:12
       1. Satan caused incredible trouble for Job.
   13. Finally, after all of this trouble, Job said, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”
       1. Job 13:15
   14. Satan said that Job loved God because:
       1. Because God had been good to Job.
       2. Because God had given Job riches.
       3. Because God had given Job children.
       4. Because God had put a hedge around Job.
          1. “Because” love is the weakest kind of love.
          2. A “because” kind of love can be threatened, and that is the kind of love that Satan thought Job had for God.
             1. Take away the “because” and Satan thought that Job wouldn’t love God anymore.
             2. Instead of loving others “because,” we should love others for who they are.
   15. The devil could not believe that Job loved God for who God is.
       1. He believed that there had to be some ulterior motive.
   16. We will see in the book of Job that God in Himself is not only necessary, but that He is enough and that we can love God and trust God even in the midst of our problems.
   17. Today’s message will present three questions.
       1. If we can answer “yes” to these questions, then we have the same kind of faith that Job had.
2. when you are submerged in suffering (Job 1:13-15)
   1. Can God be trusted when you are submerged in suffering?
      1. Job 13:15
   2. Job suffered incredible loss:
      1. Loss of finances
         1. Job 1:13-15
         2. Job was a rancher; and all of his animals, flocks and herds were taken away all at once.
            1. If tomorrow morning you wake up a pauper, can you still trust God?
         3. Job became bankrupt overnight.
         4. Job 1:16-17
      2. Loss of family
         1. Job 1:18-19
         2. A great tornado, from the hand of Satan, struck the home where Job’s children were.
      3. Loss of fitness and health
         1. Job 2:4-6
         2. Job’s body was covered with great ulcers and boils from the top of his head to the soles of his feet.
         3. Job’s body was consumed with infection.
      4. Loss of face (reputation)
         1. Job 4:7
         2. Job’s friends accused him.
            1. They asked what he had done wrong.
            2. They claimed that no one ever suffered like this who was innocent.
            3. They insinuated that Job must have had a secret sin.

If Job had been doing right, then none of this would have happened.

* + - 1. What if your reputation were taken away from you?
         1. What if you had done nothing wrong, but everyone thought that you had?
         2. What if you were criticized and blamed?
      2. There are those who believe that if a person will only get right with God, then they will be healthy and wealthy.
         1. They have the philosophy that people suffer because they have done wrong.
         2. They believe that if you get right with God and believe God, then you can have anything you want.
         3. This philosophy is wrong.
         4. Some of God’s choicest of saints have suffered.
  1. Job was submerged in suffering.
  2. In the midst of all of his suffering, Job praised God and gave God the glory.
     1. Can you do that?
     2. Can you trust God when you are submerged in suffering?
  3. Faith is not the way to get out of suffering.
     1. Faith may be the way to endure suffering.
  4. Hebrews 11:32-35
     1. God gives a roll call of the heroes of the faith and tells of people who did incredible things by faith.
  5. Hebrews 11:36-39
     1. The Bible also tells of those who suffered.
     2. This passage states that they had obtained a good report through faith.
        1. They had done nothing wrong.
     3. Those who escaped the suffering were given faith to escape.
     4. Those who endured were given faith to endure.
     5. Others were delivered, but some died.
        1. Do you have faith to be delivered?
        2. Do you have faith to die?
  6. A person can have faith and calamity at the same time.
     1. Faith does not mean that we will always escape trouble.
     2. Faith is not receiving from God what we want but accepting from God what He gives.
  7. Can you trust God when you are submerged in suffering?
     1. Can you say with Job, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him?”
     2. If you can, then you will shut the devil’s mouth.
        1. The devil thinks that if trouble comes to a Christian, then he or she will curse God.
           1. But Job praised God.
  8. Job 1:20-22

1. when you are forsaken by friends (job 19:14, 19)
   1. Can God be trusted when you are forsaken by friends?
      1. It is one thing to be submerged in suffering, but what about when we suffer and there is no one there to suffer with us or no one who really cares?
   2. Job had three friends, three comforters, but what kind of comforters were they?
      1. They gave platitudes, critiqued him and criticized him.
      2. They were not really friends at all.
   3. Job 19:14
      1. Job’s kinsfolk failed him.
      2. Job’s familiar friends had forgotten him.
   4. Job 19:19
      1. Has your spouse forsaken you?
      2. Have your children abandoned you?
      3. Has a friend whom you’ve trusted turned on you?
   5. Job’s friends could not understand because they did not know what was happening any more than Job did.
      1. Job was completely in the dark, and so were his friends.
   6. Perhaps even worse than suffering physically is to have friends forsake you.
      1. There may be no deeper hurt than this.
   7. Psalm 41:9
      1. This passage of Scripture is a prophecy of what Judas would do to the Lord Jesus Christ.
   8. Psalm 55:12-14
   9. Job was in his deepest need, and his friends turned their backs on him.
      1. This happened to Paul when he was in the Philippian jail.
         1. 2 Timothy 4:10
      2. It can happen to any of us.
         1. It can happen to preachers.
            1. Don’t think that if you preach the Gospel that the world is going to love you.
            2. The same world that hated Jesus is going to hate you.
            3. Sometimes the people with whom you take counsel within the house of God will turn against you.
            4. Trust God when friends forsake you.
         2. It can happen to kids at school.
            1. Sometimes friends will leave you when you take a stand for God.
         3. It can happen in business.
            1. You can take a stand for righteousness, and your business partner may turn against you and perhaps undercut you.
   10. Even Job’s wife turned against him.
       1. Job 2:9-10
       2. Job’s wife told him to curse God and die.
          1. She was doing the work of the devil when she said this.
             1. This was exactly what the devil had said that Job would do.
   11. When no one understands, when friends forsake you and you are suffering alone, can you trust God?
       1. If you can, then you will shut the devil’s mouth.
       2. Job 13:15
2. when you are dismayed by darkness (Job 23:1-9)
   1. Can you trust God when you are dismayed by darkness?
      1. We have read Job 1, and we understand that Satan had slandered the character of God and the character of Job.
      2. We understand that God allowed Job to be tested, not to show that Job would fail but to show that he would not.
      3. But Job did not understand this.
         1. He was in absolute darkness.
   2. Job 23:1-5
      1. The word “seat” in this passage means “throne.”
      2. Job was saying in this passage that he had some questions for God and that God owed him some answers.
   3. Job 23:8-9
      1. In the darkest of suffering, Job was searching for God.
      2. When suffering comes, we want to know why.
         1. We cannot answer the question “why” because that is God’s question.
         2. “How” is our question; how are we going to react?
         3. God doesn’t tell us the why’s.
   4. Many of God’s saints have gone into deep darkness and have not known why.
      1. Isaiah 50:10-11
      2. It is good to fear the Lord.
      3. It is good to obey God.
      4. Sometimes a person who fears God and obeys God will still walk in darkness.
         1. A “stay” in this passage is a staff, a rod.
            1. This passage is talking about leaning upon God.
         2. When you are in darkness, don’t light your own fire.
      5. A person can be serving, fearing, and obeying God, and darkness can come.
   5. Darkness is merely the absence of light.
      1. The only way there can be darkness is for the light to be withdrawn.
      2. God is the light.
   6. Sometimes God may back off and leave His servant in darkness.
      1. Almost all of the biographies of great Christians will mention what they call “the dark night of the soul.”
         1. They are serving God, loving God, and then perplexities come that they cannot understand.
      2. The prophet Habakkuk is an example.
         1. Habakkuk saw things that he did not understand and asked God how and why He was doing things.
      3. Luke 7:28
         1. Jesus said that not a greater was born of women than John the Baptist.
         2. Yet, John the Baptist, the one who said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world,” experienced such darkness that he sent his servants to ask Jesus if He was really the Messiah.
            1. John 1:29
            2. Luke 7:19
      4. The apostle Paul said on one occasion that we are perplexed but not in despair.
         1. 2 Corinthians 4:8
   7. There will be a time when you will be in such darkness that you will not understand where God is.
      1. At that time, just stay upon your God and trust Him.
   8. If you can trust God when you are dismayed by darkness and do not know what is happening, then you will shut the devil’s mouth.
3. lessons job learned (job 38:1-7, 42:5-13)
   1. God finally does speak to Job, but He doesn’t answer even one of Job’s questions.
   2. God teaches Job three things:
      1. The sovereignty of God
         1. Job 38:1-7
            1. God asks Job some questions.
         2. There are some things that only God knows.
         3. God has the right to do as He chooses.
      2. The sufficiency of God
         1. Job 42:5-6
            1. Job had gone from mere theology to a personal relationship through this trouble.
         2. The time when God will be the nearest and dearest and the most precious to you is when you are submerged in suffering, forsaken by friends, and dismayed by darkness.
            1. God alone is not only necessary, but at that time, God will be enough.
      3. The sympathy of God
         1. Job 42:10-13
            1. God gave Job twice as much as he had had before.
         2. Job received twice as much of everything he lost, except for his children.
            1. Job never lost his sons and daughters; they just went to Heaven.

Death can hide, but it cannot divide.

They are but on Christ’s other side.

They with Him, and He with us.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Man that is born of woman is full of trouble.
      1. Job 14:1
   2. God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants.
      1. Psalm 35:27
      2. But we need to have the faith of Job.
         1. Job 13:15
   3. Everyone, whether they are a Christian or not, will have trouble.
      1. As Christians, we are the ones who have the answer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
      1. 1 John 5:13
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16