

WHEN YOUR WORLD IS SHAKEN

(No. 1284 – 5/4/26 – Sermon Online Zoom)

I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

A. Recent events & lessons I am still learning

B. Expect shakings, trials, and strange “curveballs” in life

1. In Jesus’ parable about one man who built his house on the rock and another who built on sand, they BOTH went through floods, storms, and shakings (Mat. 7:24-27).
2. **1 Pet. 1:3-9:** *³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to **suffer grief in all kinds of trials**. ⁷These have come **so that your faith**—of greater worth than gold, which perishes **even though refined by fire**—**may be proved genuine** and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and **even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him** and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*
3. **1 Pet. 4:1, 12-13** (NKJV): *¹Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves** also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin... ¹²Beloved, **do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial** which is to try you, as though **some strange thing happened to you**; ¹³but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.*
4. But no matter how prepared we think we are, “curveballs” surprise us and seem to shake our whole world.

C. How do we handle life’s shakings? What does the Word say we should do (or *not* do!) when a strange, fiery trial takes us by surprise? Here are a few lessons I have been learning...

II. LESSONS FROM JOB

- A. **Job 1:13-22:** ¹³One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴**a messenger** came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. 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 sky 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 carried them off. 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, ¹⁹when 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.
- B. NOTE: Job didn't know about the conversation between God and Satan just before all hell broke loose (Job 1:6-12).
- C. Be careful what you say during trials—best to remain silent!
1. **Job 1:21-22:** ²¹And [Job] 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.**
 2. **Job 2:9-10:** ⁹His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? **Curse God and die!**" ¹⁰He replied, "**You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?**" **In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.**

3. **Job 2:11-13:** ¹¹When **Job's three friends**, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. ¹²When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. ¹³Then **they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him**, because they saw how great his suffering was.

4. NOTE: Job's friends would have been wise to *stay silent!*

Job 42:7-8: ⁷After the LORD had said these things to Job, He said to Eliphaz the Temanite, **"I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as my servant Job has.** ⁸So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to My servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to **your folly**. You have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

5. We don't have to have all the answers!

a) **Prov. 10:19:** *When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.*

b) **Prov. 17:28:** *Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.*

c) James Sinclair: "At times, it is better to keep your mouth shut and let people wonder if you're a fool than to open it and remove all doubt."

D. Through his tears and grief, Job worshiped and praised God

1. **Job 1:20-21:** 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.**"

2. Our natural tendency is to "punish God" by not praising or worshiping Him because we are secretly or subconsciously blaming God for our pain and suffering.

III. DON'T TRY TO UNDERSTAND—JUST TRUST IN GOD

- A. When we are hit by one of life's "curveballs," our first instinct is to look for answers, explanations, or understanding: "Why/how did this happen... where is God?" What we NEED to do is TRUST in God.
1. **Prov. 3:5:** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.*
 2. **2 Cor. 5:7** (NKJV): *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*
- B. How do we trust in God when everything is shaking? What are we to believe? Here are **7 important things to believe about God:**
1. God is **good**
 - a) **Ps. 34:8:** *Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.*
 - b) **Ps. 100:5:** *For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.*
 - c) **Ps. 145:9:** *The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made.*
 - d) **Mat. 7:11:** *If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!*
 - e) **James 1:17:** *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*
 - f) Everything God created was "very good" (Gen. 1:31).
 - g) He is a loving Father who only wants good for us!
 2. God is **wise**
 - a) **Rom. 11:33-34:** ³³*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!* ³⁴*"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?"*
 - b) **Isa. 55:7-9:** ⁷*Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.* ⁸*"For My thoughts are not your*

thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹“As the heavens are **higher** than the earth, so are My ways **higher** than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

- c) There are many mysteries—secrets that God has hidden from us that we cannot fathom (“the mystery of His will” Eph. 1:9)!
- d) “Father Knows Best”—thinking that we know better than God is the epitome of pride and foolish arrogance—do we dare try to be His counselor?
- e) After God grilled Job with many questions, He finally asked:

Job 40:2-5: ²“Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? Let him who accuses God answer Him!” ³Then Job answered the LORD: ⁴“**I am unworthy—how can I reply to You? I put my hand over my mouth.** ⁵I spoke once, but I have no answer—twice, but **I will say no more.**”

3. God is **omnipotent**

Rev. 19:6-7 (NKJV): ⁶And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God **Omnipotent** reigns! ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

- a) Omnipotent [Gk. *pantokrator* = “all-ruling, absolute and universal sovereign, almighty”]
- b) God has everything under control—He reigns!
- c) **Dan. 4:35** (NKJV): *All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”*

4. God is always **right** and **just**

- a) **Deut. 32:4:** *He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.*

- b) God is always right—He makes NO mistakes! How foolish of us to question what God does:
- Isa. 45:9:** *Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, “What are you making?”* [NLT: “Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, ‘Stop, **you’re doing it wrong!**’”] *Does your work say, “He has no hands”?*
- c) God is NEVER unfair—He treats everyone with justice and fairness.
- d) Who are we to charge Him—the perfection of wisdom, power, and righteousness—with ANY wrongdoing?

5. God is ALWAYS **worthy** of praise, honor and glory

- a) **Rev. 4:9-11:** ⁹*Whenever the **living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to Him** who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰the **twenty-four elders fall down** before Him who sits on the throne, and **worship Him** who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ¹¹“**You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power** [threefold worship], for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being.”*

- b) **Rev. 5:11-14:** ¹¹*Then I looked and heard the voice of **many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.** ¹²In a loud voice they sang: “**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**” [sevenfold worship!]. ¹³Then I heard **every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”** ¹⁴The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders **fell down and worshiped.***

A crescendo of praise in heaven! First, living creatures, then 24 elders offer 3-fold worship—glory, honor and power. Then many angels join, followed by every creature, who offer 7-fold worship—power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and praise!

- c) In the midst of his extreme grief and suffering, Job “**fell to the ground in worship** and said: “The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; **may the name of the LORD be praised.**””

6. God is **eternal** and His purpose is eternal
- a) **Eph. 1:4-5, 9-11:** *⁴For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love ⁵He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will... ⁹And He made known to us the **mystery of His will** according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. ¹¹In Him we were also chosen, having been **predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.***
 - b) **Eph. 3:9-11:** *⁹And to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹**according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.***
 - c) In the end, Job realized that God’s plan was too wonderful for him to even understand:
Job 42:2-3: *²“I know that You can do all things; **no plan of Yours can be thwarted.** ³You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures My counsel without knowledge?’ Surely, **I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.**”*
 - d) Our perspective needs to change—we need to focus on heaven and eternity, not temporary, earthly things:
2 Cor. 4:17-5:1: *¹⁷For our light and **momentary** troubles are achieving for us an **eternal glory** that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we **fix our eyes** not on what is seen, but **on what is unseen.** For what is seen is **temporary**, but **what is unseen is eternal.** ^{5:1}Now we know that if the **earthly** tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an **eternal house in heaven**, not built by human hands.*

- e) No one is guaranteed tomorrow!

We need to change our 5-year and 10-year plans to a ONE-DAY PLAN! We don't even know if we'll be here tomorrow!

James 4:13-15: ¹³Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? **You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.** ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “**If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.**”

- f) **Heb. 12:22, 25-28:** ²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God... ²⁵See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused Him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from Him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶At that time His voice shook the earth, but now **He has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”** ²⁷The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, **created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.** ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

God will shake the “tree” of our life to remove everything that is shakable to see what really remains!

7. God is with us and for us

- a) When trials come, the first thing the devil tells us is, “God is mad at you... He is against you... He has left you!” [Of course, the devil ALWAYS LIES!]
- b) **Heb. 13:5:** *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because **God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”***
- c) **Rom. 8:1, 28-39** (NKJV): ¹There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...** ²⁸And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

*³¹What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up **for us** all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession **for us.** ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷Yet **in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Trials will come to test and shake our faith
- B. When tragedy shook Job's world, He did two very difficult things: 1) He worshiped God; 2) He did not blame God (his wife and friends spoke like fools and made God very angry!)
- C. Rather than question "why" or blame God, we need to double down and trust God—PERIOD!
- D. We examined 7 important things to believe about God (there are many more than 7!):
 - 1. God is good—He's our loving Father
 - 2. God is wise—He's much smarter than we are!
 - 3. God is omnipotent—He's in control
 - 4. God is right and fair—He never makes mistakes
 - 5. God is worthy—don't stop praising and worshiping Him
 - 6. God's purpose is eternal—our focus must change
 - 7. God is with us and for us

Let's trust our loving Father—He knows best! AMEN!