

Learning from Affliction – Part 6

Introduction

- Today we are considering what Job learned from affliction
- Job was a wealthy & healthy believer with a large family & many friends
- He lost it all in a few days by satanic attacks (permitted by God)
- His suffering & affliction lasted for an extended period of time
- He received no immediate consolation from family, friends or God
- Job is a model of faithful perseverance from which we can learn

I. The Lord is Compassionate (v. 11d)

A. Suffering (v. 10a)

Job is an example of suffering for us so that we are not perplexed & surprised when we suffer (1Pe. 4:12). Faithful & obedient saints will still suffer. Believers may suffer: financial loss, loss of beloved family members, health, loyalty of family members & friends.

B. Patience (v. 10a)

*Suffering for the believer is intended to increase faith and patience (Heb. 6:12). Faith gives hope for the future & patience gives endurance for the present. Believers begin to wonder if God really cares since he allows us to suffer (Mk. 4:38). Job had no remedy for his physical suffering, but God eventually brought him relief & restoration – COMPASSION (Job. 42:10; Mt. 14:14; 15:32). Compassion answers the question of does God care when we suffer – **YES HE DOES!***

II. The Lord is Merciful (v. 11d)

A. Suffering (v. 10a)

*Believers may suffer physically, emotionally & spiritually. Believers may suffer severely & over an extended period of time. This can cause doubts, fears, worry, anger, interrupted fellowship, etc. Suffering brought **misery** to Job that only the **mercy** of God could relieve.*

B. Patience (v. 10a)

*Job is not remembered for his accomplishments, but for patience in suffering (v. 11a-b). Suffering revealed the real man (1Pe.1:6-7). Even though Job was imperfect in his patience (complaint & anxiety), he still endured his severe trial. God forgave & overlooked Job's weaknesses & failures in suffering – **MERCY** (Job 9:14-15; Lam. 3:22-23).*