



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Discovery Digs Series, Lesson 13

Lesson Title: Job Learns to Trust God

Take Home Point: Trust God... even when life doesn't seem fair.

Warm-Up:

"It's not fair!" How often I heard that from my children as they were growing up! It didn't matter if what they experienced was the result of a choice they made or simply something that happened they didn't like. Usually it was said when they were comparing their circumstances to another person's, and especially when the other person was their sibling. I tried to teach them from an early age that life is not always fair. Do you ever hear the same phrase around you? Adults are really no different than children when it comes to this. We want life to treat us well, and for our circumstances to offer every advantage for our comfort and success. But that's not what happens, so we say, "It's not fair!" It's a story as old as Job and as new as today.

Read: Job 1 and random portions throughout the book; Isaiah 55:8-9

Observation (What happened?):

Why did Job suffer the things that he did?

How does God compare his thoughts and his ways to our thoughts and our ways?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think God allowed Job's circumstances to be what they were?

What do you think of Job's response?

Insight:

Countless volumes throughout history address the "problem" of human suffering. Some attempt to explain it in terms of human reason; some are angry polemics against a mean, unjust God. Some stay away from asking why and simply strive to provide comfort or ways to cope. Others, particularly non-Christian religious books, offer supernatural explanations such as angry gods, another life on the path to perfection, planetary alignments, etc. Typically, most present two perspectives – your suffering is either God's fault or your fault. There are, however, two other perspectives that are not commonly presented, both based on the God's word. First, God gave us free will. We make choices. Choices have consequences. Since our choices are not always perfect, bad consequences result for others as well as the person making the choice. Second, we live in a world corrupted by sin. Bad things happen. The Bible says that all bad things are the result of sin corrupting the world. Not everything has a rational explanation, and it is clear from the account of Job that God doesn't feel compelled to explain everything, either. That is part of our faith walk – leaving in our perfect Father's hands what we don't understand.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What do you think is unfair about your life right now? Why?

How can you show God you trust him in your unfair circumstances?

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