

Circumstantial Living Leads to Circumstantial Worship

Job 13:15

Job lost everything!!! Endured terrible circumstances but still declared that he will continue to trust God!

In the first chapter of this book you'll see that Job loses everything.

1. His oxen and donkeys are all stolen from him.
2. All his sheep are dead.
3. All his camels are stolen.
4. And let's not forget, all of kids are dead!!!

- Compare that with your week and see where it measures up!!
- In verse 20 it says, "At this Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said, Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."
 - WOW!!
- TO get the news that you have just lost everything, not some, not part nut everything!! You get this news and you set your heart to worship!
- Isn't our natural first response anger? Don't you ask the question why? Why me? Why my children? Why my livestock? Why all at once?
- Can you sense the grief that Job is going through? Even in the mix of POWERFUL emotions, Job finds comfort in worship than questions!!! Did you catch that?

- HE finds a greater desire to worship than to understand. I think this is because Job understood the difference in circumstantial living and true praise.
- True praise is lifting my heart to God in praise when things aren't going as planned and I couldn't be more confused or more hurt.
- Job had no circumstantial reason to praise God or even trust God for that matter. There is no evidence that God is working on his behalf. If God were there, wouldn't he have done something to stop all of this??? I'm afraid many of us would not have done what Job did.
- Satan in the first chapter vs. 11 said, "But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." Satan was sure that Job was a circumstantial worshipper.
- A circumstantial worshipper gives praise to God based solely on how good their circumstances are at any given point in their life. If I'm happy about everything then I will praise you. But let those circumstances change for the worst and the worship ends.
- We tag our prayers with, "God if you do this for me I'll give you all of my praise." Well what if He doesn't??? Does it mean that God is no longer worthy of my praise? That he is any less powerful?
- No it means that we are circumstantial worshippers!! When I prayed over Jason and Tina yesterday during their wedding, I prayed that they wouldn't be sheltered from trouble. Because it's in trouble that our true thoughts towards God come out! Trouble sharpens us.
- How we react to any given situation is purely our choice. We own it!!

- Victor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor writes about his experience in a Nazi concentration camp. He says, “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms—to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances.”
- Worship in any negative situation takes faith, faith to believe that God is seeing the situation from all sides. The limited view that I have isn’t the same view that God has!!! Worship is the elevator that lifts our perspective.
- When life is bringing certain events my way that I don’t understand and I can’t wrap my brain around it, am I going to worship God or get stuck in the whys? That’s what Job is saying in our text today. “Though He slays me, yet will I hope in Him.”
- That my friends go beyond circumstantial worship. That is saying regardless of the circumstances I face in life, good and bad, profitable or depleting, great or terrible, I will trust God and I will worship Him still.
 - Everything doesn’t have to be perfect to worship God!!!!
 - But here’s the big thought. Some of you base your identity on your circumstances. That’s right I said it!!!! You say, if I like my circumstances then I like me.
 - There are several things wrong with that.
 1. Basing your identity on your circumstances is dangerous because it means with every circumstance change, your identity changes to match the nature of the new circumstance.
 2. If you like yourself the more you like your circumstances, does that mean hate your circumstances you hate yourself? Our circumstances are never to serve as the barometer by which we measure our self-esteem.

3. If your love for God is in direct proportion to how much you love yourself then you have issues. God is worthy of my love and affection even I don't feel worthy enough to give it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 4. Did you know that God is never stumped or stupefied? He is on top of things at all times, even when we are not. God is in the mix. He is not a far off spectator, he is right here behind and before us to help us through these circumstances we go through. We have to resist the urge to become circumstantial worshippers who only worship God when the events in their lives agree with them.
- Rule your circumstances with praise rather than letting your praise be ruled by your circumstances!!