

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 June 2013..... Job 01-02..... Is This Really Happening to Me?
- 2) 09 June..... Job 03-14..... Was It My Fault?
- 3) 16 June..... Job 15-21..... Who Said Life Would Be Fair?
- 4) 23 June..... Job 22-28..... Whom Can I Trust?
- 5) 30 June..... Job 29-31..... What Can I Do Now?
- 6) 07 July..... Job 32-37..... Am I On The Right Path?
- 7) 14 July..... Job 38-42..... What Am I Supposed to Learn?

INTRODUCTION

- Job tells us how he became wealthy – he looked after the poor & God looked after him – a timeless principle (Prov 19:17), but not a guarantee in all situations (1Tim 5:9-10 – godly destitute widows)

Passage	Comments
Job 29:1-11	<p><b>Job Remembers the Good 'ol Days When He Was Once Held In High Esteem By All</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v2. God watched over him</li> <li>• v6. Rocks poured out oil for him (He made money easy)</li> <li>• v6. His path was bathed in butter (everything came easy)</li> <li>• v8. Young men were in awe of him</li> <li>• v8. Old men arose and stood before him</li> <li>• vv9-10. ...and when Job spoke, everyone listened</li> </ul>
Job 29:12-25	<p><b>Job Credits His Success to How He Treated the Weak</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v12. I delivered the poor and orphan who cried for help</li> <li>• v13. I helped the widow and those perishing</li> <li>• v14. I followed after righteousness and justice</li> <li>• v15. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame</li> <li>• v16. I stepped in to ensure justice</li> <li>• v17. I contended with the wicked</li> </ul>
Job 29:21-25	<p><b>The End Result of Job's Righteous Ways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v21. People anxiously sought out Job for wise counsel</li> <li>• v24. They even took Job's joking seriously</li> <li>• v25. The people held Job up like a righteous king</li> <li>• Can anyone invoke such a loyal following.....YES                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Consider Kings David &amp; Solomon at their prime</li> <li>♦ Consider Jesus, John the Baptist, Peter, Paul</li> <li>♦ Consider Psalms 119:74 "May those who fear You be glad to see me because I wait before Your word"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Are There Limits to Helping the Poor? YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God commands us to take care of the poor, whether they are saved or unsaved, church members or the unchurched, family or strangers; friends or enemies</li> <li>• But with such grace, we are also commanded to have discernment. The command to render aid was never intended to be a blank check. Job was still wealthy though he helped immensely the "legitimate" poor</li> <li>• We also need to know the difference between being gracious and being gullible. Therefore, we need to discern whom to help, when to help, how to help, how intensely to help, and whom not to help, and why</li> <li>• Remember – The Prodigal son came to his senses and humbly went home with the right attitude once he realized nobody gave him anything..... Luke 15:11-32</li> </ul>
Job 30:1-19	<p><b>Job Didn't Help Everyone who was Poor or Distressed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-8. There were scoundrels (the parents of the youth who showed disrespect to the aged) that Job wouldn't give them even a menial job to watch his sheep dogs                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ There's a saying that 'nuts don't fall far from the tree', IOW, the kids were just like their parents – disrespectful, untrustworthy, not deserving of help even if they were emaciated from famine (v3), only deserving to be driven out of town as thieves (v5)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
Job 30:20-31	<p><b>Job's Reason for Confessing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jumping ahead to chapter 42:6 we see Job telling God that he retracts his words and says "I repent in dust and ashes." BUT wasn't Job relatively sinless?</li> <li>• vv20-23. This passage sums up Job's wrongful perspective of God, and his need to eventually repent                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ v20. God does not care about me</li> <li>♦ v21. God is cruel to me and persecutes me</li> <li>♦ v22. God will eventually kill me</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Job 31:1-40	<p><b>Job's Secret to Success</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Job made a decision to live righteously and took definite steps to avoid sin, beginning with his eyes (I made a covenant with my eyes not to lust)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Prov 4:25 Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.</li> <li>♦ So don't let your eyes wonder where they shouldn't</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Job Was Ready to Lose Everything IF He was Guilty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv5-6. If I've lied may God try me</li> <li>• vv7-8. If I've cheated anyone may I lose my income</li> <li>• vv9-12. If I've cheated on my wife, may she marry someone else</li> <li>• vv13-15. If I've mistreated my employees may God make me accountable</li> <li>• vv16-23. If I've wronged the poor may God strike me</li> <li>• vv24-28. If I've chased after wealth or worshipped the sun or moon, may I be judged for it</li> <li>• vv29-31. Neither have I rejoiced at the extinction of my enemy or mistreated my servants</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did Job accomplish anything with this long defense? - We can learn a lot about Job's character and attitude, which we should mimic</li> </ul> <p><b>Job Had An Open Door Policy With The Needy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job 31:16-17; 32 [NLT] "Have I refused to help the poor, or crushed the hopes of widows? Have I been stingy with my food and refused to share it with hungry orphans?" And "I have never turned away a stranger but have opened my doors to everyone."</li> <li>• BUT does this allude to an open-ended approach to helping 'all' the poor who might cross our paths? .....NO</li> <li>• We can logically deduce the poor in this passage were legitimate. They were not out to scam anyone, they were not scoundrels, IOW they were not being prodigal</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- There is so much meat in these 3 chapters especially with principles dealing with the poor. YES, like Job, we should actively look after the weaker members in our circle of influence – BUT we need to discern if there is prodigal behavior, which would negate providing any form of help to prevent enabling more bad behavior

**NEXT WEEK: Job 32.37.** Elihu begins his discourse and hammers Job for his belligerence and ignorance of God's therapeutic discipline and sovereignty, yet, Elihu also suffered from misapplication at times



How Job's friends saw him with the poor.