

ENDURANCE UNDER UNDESERVED SUFFERING (#2)

In our lesson text, James taught Endurance of Underserved Suffering by the Old Testament prophets and Job.

Last week we studied Endurance of Undeserved Suffering of Old Testament prophet Jeremiah.

It is interesting to me that James summarized Undeserved Suffering chapters and 1,048 verses of Book of Job into one verse,

(James 5:11) “Behold, we count those blessed (makarizo/ p.a.ind.1pl) who **endured** (tous hupomeno/ a.a.ptc. aplm). You have heard of **the endurance** of Job and have seen the **outcome (to telos) of the Lord’s dealing, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.**”

Let’s review 8 of the losses Job suffered: He lost all his wealth and livelihood; all his employees; all his quality of life and health; all business association and connections; all his contact with kin; all contact with religious affiliation; loss all but three friends; and all contact with community life. He lost all the details that most people consider making life what is life.

Job said it felt like losing everything in his life in one day (Job 27:19).

But the most **important thing he did not lose** among all these losses was his **relationship with God**. The question to be answered is this, **Is God enough?** This question had already been **settled in Job’s heart before Undeserved Suffering came into his life.**

The Book opens with God bragging on Job – “For there is no one like him on earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast is integrity, although you (satan) incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.” (Job 2:3)

This week we will study seven lessons that Endurance of Undeserved Suffering taught Job.

When you study the Book of Job you discover that Job spoke in 21 chapters and his friends spoke in 9 chapters, a by-passer, Elihu, spoke in 6 chapters, and God spoke in 6 chapters.

This lesson will look at three doctrinal principles God taught Job through Undeserved Suffering.

The devil asked an important question regarding Job’s relationship with God before his Undeserved Suffering testing,

“Does Job fear (reverence) God for nothing?”

The devil was talking about God’s hedge around Job (divine blessings of details of life that he would lose during Undeserved Suffering in angelic conflict (chs. 1-2).

The devil was confident that Job would curse God to His face (Job 1:11; 2:5)

1st doctrinal principle God taught Job through Undeserved Suffering was that God was sufficient for whatever a believer suffering for the sake of Christ (2 Cor.12:8-9).

God is the only one in Job's life that has not forsaken him or has not accused him of suffering because of unconfessed personal sin. (Heb.13:5). When a person believes the grace gospel of salvation (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9), he gets all three members of the Godhead working for him/ her (1 Cor.12:4-6).

God spoke six times on behalf of Job's Undeserved Suffering (chs.1, 2, 38, 39, 40, 41). Job answered to the Lord,

(Job 42:1) "Then Job answered the Lord and said, 'I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.'"

2nd doctrinal principle God taught Job through Undeserved Suffering was that other believers who do not have the spiritual maturity of the word of God are not helpful during Undeserved Suffering.

An example would be Job's three believer friends: Eliphaz (chs.4, 5, 15, 23), Bildad (chs.8, 11, 25), and Zophar (chs.11, 20). As a result, they were not able to encourage Job in Undeserved Suffering. But instead piled on to his suffering (job 16:1/ read).

These friends are introduced in Job 2:11-13. They sat with Job in his Undeserved Suffering for seven days without being able to speak. They were good friends but not spiritual mature friends. The problem was that they all believed Job had committed a sin which he was not willing to confess (1 John 1:9; **Eliphaz:** Job 5:17; 15:5-6; 22:23). God spoke about His displeasure with them in Undeserved Suffering Job 42:7-9 (read).

3rd doctrinal principle God taught Job through Undeserved Suffering was that God is faithful and full of compassion and is merciful to those in.

In chs. 30-31, Job makes his final appeal to God about his suffering.

(Job 30:16-17) "Now my soul is poured out within me; days of affliction have seized me. At night it pierces my bones within me, and my gnawing pains take no rest."

(Job 30:30) "My skin turns black on me; my bones burn with fever."

At this point God intervenes and speaks to Job (chs.39-41). Job makes an important confession to God in:

(Job 42:2) "I know that You can do all things and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."

This brings us back to James 5:11

- "We count those blessed **who endured**.
- You have heard of the **endurance of Job** and have seen the outcome (to telos) of the **Lord's dealings** (Undeserved Suffering),
- that the **Lord is full of compassion and merciful.**"