

Sermon Series: The Strong Family—6/11/2000—Lord of Life

Title: Facing the Unforeseen

Text: Job 1 & 2 (selected verses)

Introduction: ILLUS.: MICRO-MANAGEMENT & (tell the story of Job)

Theme: How we survive the unforeseen time of trial in our life all depends on whether we securely anchor ourselves in Jesus, as the Rock of our Salvation.

Why the grip of terror is so strong in the unforeseen disaster

- We hold unrealistic expectations
 1. **ILLUS.: DIRTY DISHES**
 2. We want a decayless, deathless, perfect world when short of heaven it cannot/will not be realized
 3. *“Everything on earth was subjected to God’s curse...All creation anticipates freedom from death and decay...all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.” Romans 8: 19-22*
- We don’t anticipate unexpected “nasty” surprises
 1. **Illus.: UNEXPECTED**
 2. How could have Job expected the onslaught of Satan and the world? (1: 13-19 & 2: 7-8)
 3. You can’t anticipate the tragic wreck, the terrible storm, the overwhelming disease
 4. We forget that we live in the swirl of sin’s consequence, *“When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.” Romans 5: 12*
- We sinfully neglect our preparation
 1. *“Just as in Noah’s day, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.” Lk17:26-27*

Surviving the moment of catastrophe with the hope that Jesus gives

- Understand what your relationship with God is based upon
 1. Developing a strong faith relationship with the Father through Christ in the good times
 - a. Job’s righteousness of faith and integrity of walk were obvious to all (1: 1, 8, 2: 3)
 - b. Satan twice tried to accuse Job faith before God (1: 9-10 & 2: 4-5)
 - c. *“Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? Will God? No! He is the one who has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for he is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us.” Rom 8: 33,34*
 2. In the moment of catastrophe standing in that relationship and reminding myself of two Biblical truths
 - a. *“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, Blessed be the name of the Lord. Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God”(1:21-22)*
 - b. **Since God has given me all things, what do I have that I have not received.**
 - c. **Since God, who owns all things (including life, health, family, things) and entrusts them to my care for a season, I must be ready at a moments notice to hand them back to him, if and when he calls for them.**
- Live out your integrity in the context of God’s integrity
 1. Job’s integrity of faith and walk showed by not calling God’s integrity into question when disaster and trial struck
 - a. His wife wanted him to curse God, die, and get it over with (2: 7-9)
 - b. His friends sat around 7 days and nights with no comfort in his obvious pain (2: 11-13)
 - c. We cannot look to friends and family as our last line of defense but ONLY to our Savior
 - d. **ILLUS.: DEEP ROOTS**
 2. Mining God’s gold out of disaster’s ashes (“Shall we indeed accept good from God, and not accept adversity” (2:10)
 - a. *“When we run into problems and trials, we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation. And this expectation will not disappoint us. For we know how dearly God loves us.” Romans 5: 3-5*
 - b. **ILLUS.: OUT OF THE ASHES—THOMAS EDISON**
- Place your hope in what will last and what really matters
 1. *“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that he will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes.” Job 19:25-27*
 2. Misplaced hopes (job, health, kids, possessions) come up short in time of disaster
 3. An eternal/resurrection perspective gives buoyancy when life’s wives come crashing in
 - *“I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that...I can really know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead.” Phil 3: 8,10*

Job 1:1-2:13 (From the God's Word to the Nations translation)

A man named Job lived in Uz. He was a man of integrity: He was decent, he feared God, and he stayed away from evil. ²He had seven sons and three daughters. ³He owned 7,000 sheep and goats, 3,000 camels, 1,000 oxen, 500 donkeys, and a large number of servants. He was the most influential person in the Middle East. ⁴His sons used to go to each other's homes, where they would have parties. (Each brother took his turn having a party.) They would send someone to invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵When they finished having their parties, Job would send for them in order to cleanse them from sin. He would get up early in the morning and sacrifice burnt offerings for each of them. Job thought, "My children may have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Job offered sacrifices for them all the time. ⁶One day when the sons of God came to stand in front of the LORD, Satan the Accuser came along with them. ⁷The LORD asked Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From wandering all over the earth." ⁸The LORD asked Satan, "Have you thought about my servant Job? No one in the world is like him! He is a man of integrity: He is decent, he fears God, and he stays away from evil." ⁹Satan answered the LORD, "Haven't you given Job a reason to fear God? ¹⁰Haven't you put a protective fence around him, his home, and everything he has? You have blessed everything he does. His cattle have spread out over the land. ¹¹But now stretch out your hand, and strike everything he has. I bet he'll curse you to your face." ¹²The LORD told Satan, "Everything he has is in your power, but you must not lay a hand on him!" Then Satan left the LORD'S presence. ¹³One day when Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's home, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job. He said, "While the oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵men from Sheba attacked. They took the livestock and massacred the servants. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you." ¹⁶While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "A fire from God fell from heaven and completely burned your flocks and servants. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you." ¹⁷While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three companies and made a raid on the camels. They took the camels and massacred the servants. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you." ¹⁸While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine at their oldest brother's home ¹⁹when suddenly a great storm swept across the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It fell on the young people, and they died. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you." ²⁰Job stood up, tore his robe in grief, and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹He said, "Naked I came from my mother, and naked I will return. The LORD has given, and the LORD has taken away! May the name of the LORD be praised." ²²Through all this Job did not sin or blame God for doing anything wrong.

^{2:1}One day when the sons of God came to stand in front of the LORD, Satan the Accuser came along with them. ²The LORD asked Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From wandering all over the earth." ³The LORD asked Satan, "Have you thought about my servant Job? No one in the world is like him! He is a man of integrity: He is decent, he fears God, and he stays away from evil. And he still holds on to his principles. You're trying to provoke me into ruining him for no reason." ⁴Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! Certainly, a man will give everything he has for his life. ⁵But stretch out your hand, and strike his flesh and bones. I bet he'll curse you to your face." ⁶The LORD told Satan, "He is in your power, but you must spare his life!" ⁷Satan left the LORD'S presence and struck Job with painful boils from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. ⁸Job took a piece of broken pottery to scratch himself as he sat in the ashes. ⁹His wife asked him, "Are you still holding on to your principles? Curse God and die!" ¹⁰He said to her, "You're talking like a godless fool. We accept the good that God gives us. Shouldn't we also accept the bad?" Through all this Job's lips did not utter one sinful word. ¹¹When Job's three friends heard about all the terrible things that had happened to him, each of them came from his home—Eliphaz of Teman, Bildad of Shuah, Zophar of Naama. They had agreed they would go together to sympathize with Job and comfort him. ¹²When they saw him from a distance, they didn't even recognize him. They cried out loud and wept, and each of them tore his own clothes in grief. They threw dust on their heads. ¹³Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him because they saw that he was in such great pain.

MICROMANAGEMENT

I USED TO WORK at an airport's baggage-claim area. One afternoon I unloaded some arriving luggage onto the carousel conveyor belt. A few seconds later the belt jammed when the first suitcase wedged itself at one of the turns. After I yanked the bag free, the conveyor started again, and the only way out was for me to ride the belt up to the carousel. I sat with the suitcase on my lap to make sure it wouldn't cause any more problems. As I slid by on the carousel, a passer-by yelled, "Next time, go first class!" --Contributed to "All In a Day's Work" by Steve Lewin

DIRTY DISHES

Bachelor Bob: "I got a cookbook for Christmas from my mom, but after checking out some of the recipes, I decided to toss it into the garbage can.

"Married Marvin: "Too much fancy work in it, eh?"

Bachelor Bob: "You said it! Every recipe began with the same words: Take a clean dish...How unrealistic can you get?"

UNEXPECTED

Long-time actress and comedienne Gracie Allen once received a small, live alligator as a gag. Not knowing what to do with it, Gracie placed it in the bathtub and then left for an appointment. When she returned home, she found this note from her maid: "Dear Miss Allen: Sorry, but I have to quit. I don't work in houses where there is an alligator. I'd a told you this when I took on the job, but I never thought it would come up.

DEEP ROOTS

A. Parnell Bailey visited an orange grove where an irrigation pump had broken down. The season was unusually dry and some of the trees were beginning to die for lack of water. The man giving the tour then took Bailey to his own orchard where irrigation was used sparingly. "These trees could go without rain for another 2 weeks," he said. "You see, when they were young, I frequently kept water from them. This hardship caused them to send their roots deeper into the soil in search of moisture. Now mine are the deepest-rooted trees in the area. While others are being scorched by the sun, these are finding moisture at a greater depth." Our Daily Bread

OUT OF THE ASHES

Thomas Edison invented the microphone, the phonograph, the incandescent light, the storage battery, talking movies, and more than 1000 other things. December 1914 he had worked for 10 years on a storage battery. This had greatly strained his finances. This particular evening spontaneous combustion had broken out in the film room. Within minutes all the packing compounds, celluloid for records and film, and other flammable goods were in flames. Fire companies from eight surrounding towns arrived, but the heat was so intense and the water pressure so low that the attempt to douse the flames was futile. Everything was destroyed. Edison was 67. With all his assets going up in a whoosh (although the damage exceeded two million dollars, the buildings were only insured for \$238,000 because they were made of concrete and thought to be fireproof), would his spirit be broken? The inventor's 24-year old son, Charles, searched frantically for his father. He finally found him, calmly watching the fire, his face glowing in the reflection, his white hair blowing in the wind. "My heart ached for him," said Charles. "He was 67--no longer a young man--and everything was going up in flames. When he saw me, he shouted, 'Charles, where's your mother?' When I told him I didn't know, he said, 'Find her. Bring her here. She will never see anything like this as long as she lives.'" The next morning, Edison looked at the ruins and said, "There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew." Three weeks after the fire, Edison managed to deliver the first phonograph. Swindoll, Hand Me Another Brick, Thomas Nelson, 1978, pp. 82-3, and Bits and Pieces, November, 1989, p. 12