

Rise to the Occasion

Introduction

This week, we were blessed to hear from a guest speaker, Pastor Albert Rapley who drew our attention to the book of Job. The bible tells us that Job was the greatest man of the East (Job 1:3), he appeared to be a man who 'had it all'; wealth, family, health, and a relationship with God. Imagine for a moment what confronted Job in a single day. Today's equivalent would be losing our job or our means of making money; losing all our savings and investments or all our material assets; and losing our children all at once.

Have you ever experienced the all at once phenomenon? The fact is, most of us can deal with big problems every now and then, we tend to be emotionally prepared to deal with a big problem in our life in one area as long as things are good in another area. But when the problems rush in all at once, we quickly become overwhelmed. I wonder if this is what the enemy had in mind when he sought God's audience and asked for permission to besiege Job. He didn't stop asking until he went after Job's finances, his family, and his fitness all at once, but Job hung on to his faith. In fact, the word says in Job 1:20, that after Job received all the negative news about his financial losses and the death of his children, he tore his clothing, fell to his knees, and **he worshipped**.

True worship of God is costly. It demands everything the worshipper has. The real test of our worship is not how well we sing or how closely we listen on Sunday morning. The test is how we react when the onslaught hits on Monday morning and begins to deprive our life of its blessings and our mind of its peace. Satan has a way of putting your commitment to the test. It's often when you make a decision for God, make a new commitment, give up something that you were struggling with, that the enemy comes in like a flood.

Getting Started

Read **Job 1** and answer the following:

1. What did Job have before his loss? **Job 1:2-3**
2. What did Satan believe about Job and his service to God? **Job 1:9-10**
3. What were the reports of the four messengers who came to Job in quick succession? **Job 1:14-19**
4. What does Job's response to the news tell us about his character? **Job 1:20-22**



Let's Get Personal

1. Write about a time in your life when you experienced the all at once phenomenon. A time when everything seemed to go wrong at the same time?
2. How did God bring you out of that season? What did you learn through that experience that you would not have learned otherwise?
3. Costly worship is when it costs you something. When you can praise God from your heart, even though to the naked eye the circumstances don't seem to call for worship. Have you ever experienced a costly worship? What was going on in your life during that season?

Take The Next Step

This week's assignment is to do the following:

1. **Thank God for His goodness.** In your prayer time this week, dedicate time to think deliberately about what God has brought you through. Each day, journal one specific experience and give God thanks for it.
2. **Think about your problems.** Too often, we avoid thinking about the negative things we are experiencing. This week, with a victor's mindset, think carefully about what you are going through right now. Talk to God about it, and no matter how impossible it might seem, thank God that He is able to bring you through it and that He will bring you through it.

Have a great week!