

### **Why Too Early to tell?**

- ✓ The book of Job is a forty-two-chapter illustration of how wrong we can be about God, ourselves, and others, especially when things go bad.
- ✓ We think we know, and that is a big problem for us.
- ✓ God can and does explain Himself sometimes, but only when it is in our best interests.

### **Job leads us to some very disturbing conclusions. Job 1-2:10**

- ✓ Undoubtedly, these are some of the most difficult chapters in the entire Bible.
  - ✓ In our minds we believe this equals that and this causes that, and everything in life is a linear equation for us. "If I am good, good will always happen to me," was that true for Job? "If I'm bad, bad things will always happen." Job's friends believed this and used it to mistreat their friend.
  - ✓ Job's story will help us to come to grips with who we really are, what we really have and Who's really in control.
  - ✓ These are hard lessons to learn, but we have to learn them.
  - ✓ We get them at the expense of the one who had it the hardest: Job, the great man of the east.
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### **There may or may not be a direct relationship between my behavior and what happens to me.**

- ✓ Just because things are going bad for me doesn't mean that I'm bad or that God is upset with me.
- ✓ Just because things are going well for me doesn't mean that God approves of my life either.
- ✓ Am I cursed or am I blessed? **It's too early to tell!!!**

### **How about Jesus Himself?** His life was a tough one.

- ✓ Was He disobedient to God? Of course not! There was not a direct relationship between how He behaved or how the Father felt about Him and how His life played out on earth.
  - ✓ Why would we think that it would be any different for us?
  - ✓ Could it be that what is really going on is only totally known by God Himself?
  - ✓ The vast majority of Job is taken up by well meaning "friends" who thought they could tell if Job was cursed or blessed, and they were all wrong.
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### **Job is not so much a book about knowing why things happen as it is a book about the right kind of faith.**

- ✓ This is written about Job because he had the right kind of faith.
  - ✓ What kind of faith do you have?
    - 1. Fair weather faith,** "As long as things are going well, I'm praising the Lord."
      - ✓ This is the kind of faith Satan accused Job of having, "he serves you because You bless him."
      - ✓ This faith has a sort of business deal with God: "I'll do this for you if you'll do this for me."
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## Job, Lesson 2: The Right Kind of Faith

2. **Bad weather faith**, aka a “fox hole faith,” when the chips are down, they cry out to God but when things go well, they act as if God does not exist.
    - ✓ Again, this is a faith that makes deals, “if you get me out of this, Lord, I will serve you.”
    - ✓ Fair weather and bad weather faiths **will fail you!**
  3. **All Weather Faith, Matthew 5:45.** Faith that does what’s right because its right, not because of temporary rewards or payoffs but because he trusts the One who will make it all right in the end.
    - ✓ A faith that knows we live in a devil dominated world where the good aren’t necessarily immediately rewarded and the bad aren’t necessarily immediately punished.
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### **It will all shake out in the end, but for now, it’s too early to tell!! Luke 18:18-19**

- ✓ There are many reasons why it’s too early. One of the main reasons why is because of our mistaken notions of how things actually work.
  - ✓ The book of Job exists in our Bibles if for no other reason than to remind us that there may or may not be direct relationship between our behavior and what happens to us.
  - ✓ Sometimes good people seem cursed. **Job 1:1**
  - ✓ Sometimes bad people seem blessed.
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### **The big question that remains is: why is it this way? Why does the rain fall on the just and the unjust?**

- ✓ Part of our answer is that God is gracious to bad people and blesses them even though they don’t acknowledge Him.
  - ✓ So, bad people have good things happen to them, therefore, it seems logical that good people should have it good all the time.
  - ✓ If I can be bad and still get good stuff, then if I’m good, well, then it’ll always be good for me, or so I think.
  - ✓ It may be, like Job, that you are so good that you are better than everybody else.
  - ✓ Is that a guarantee that you will always experience good things? It wasn’t for Job.
  - ✓ What are we missing? Good things happen to bad people because God is gracious.
  - ✓ Why do bad things happen to good people?
  - ✓ There are **no good people!!** There are no innocent people. In fact, there haven’t been any good/innocent people on the earth for a very long time.
  - ✓ Bad things never happen to good people because ***there aren’t any good people.***
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## Job, Lesson 2: The Right Kind of Faith

### Luke 18:18-19

- ✓ Bad things **didn't** happen when there were good/innocent people.
- ✓ Adam and Eve had it all good, God said it was "**very good.**" **Genesis 1:31**
- ✓ Adam and Eve became bad as result of sin and gave birth to bad people: **Genesis 5:1, 3.** God's image = good; Adam's image = bad.
- ✓ Corroborated by the New Testament: **Romans 3:10-12.**
- ✓ You see, we operate from a false premise: that there are good people; this false premise has led to false conclusions:
  1. God must be evil to treat good people this way.
  2. There is no God because if there were He wouldn't let bad things happen to good people.Etc.

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