

Job Lesson 4: Losing It All Daily

Job makes us think of some rather morbid things. Are you OK with that??

- ✓ It all came from God; He can take it back for no apparent reason...it is His stuff.
- ✓ You haven't borrowed, leased, you have no contract that says you got a right to it under certain conditions.
- ✓ He's just letting you enjoy His stuff because He's good and He won't be any less good if He takes it back, will He?

1. Taking a hard look at the worst-case scenario or lesser tragedies is important because it raises deeper questions like:

- ✓ Where is my security?
- ✓ Upon what do I truly depend?

2. Taking a hard look at losing it all is important because it is actually a requirement for discipleship: Matthew 16:24-25; Lk. 14:33.

- ✓ Discipleship means following Jesus, following Jesus means carrying a cross!! **Luke 9:23**

3. Taking a hard look at losing it all is important because I think Satan makes a legitimate point here about Job and also about us.

- ✓ Satan is effectively saying, "You've protected Job, blessed him, he's healthy, no wonder he loves You, who wouldn't! But he only loves you for what you do for him take it all away and he'll curse you."
- ✓ Satan insinuates that God can't be loved unless He buys that love by blessing Job.
- ✓ Satan was wrong about Job; Job didn't serve and honor God because God blessed him.
- ✓ Satan was wrong about Job, but I'm afraid he may be right about us.
- ✓ A lot of people claim to love God because He's blessed them and really for no other reason.
- ✓ God can't be loved unless He buys that love from you??
- ✓ I'm not saying that you shouldn't love God more as a result of the things He's given you.
- ✓ Those things cause love to grow deeper, but is that *why* you love Him?
- ✓ We are at church praising God, saying we love God and will serve Him but WHY?? Because we feel blessed or because we are really His no matter what may come or go?

4. Taking a Hard look at losing it all is important because I believe it's a big key to being truly joyful and satisfied.

- **It helps me fix my hope on what I truly do have:** I have nothing but the Lord, I could possibly lose and, eventually, will lose everything else.
 - ✓ Are you going to step out of this life with anything other than Him?
 - ✓ Having the Lord is a decision that you make, a personal decision and encounter where you trust Jesus to be your Savior.
 - ✓ If you've not had that encounter, you need to get that taken care of because, right now, you would have absolutely nothing if you left this life.
 - ✓ Hell is going to be a horrible place, filled with people who will exist forever with absolutely nothing.
 - ✓ They lost everything that they were counting on, and, concerning the one thing they could have had in this life and the life to come, they said, "I don't need Him." **Do not make that mistake.**

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- **It helps me fix my hope on what matters:** I am not getting what I really deserve, so even if I lose it all, it's still a good day!
 - **It humbles me:** All that I have, the Lord has given to me, I haven't deserved it.
 - ✓ Humility is great because it will mean I'm not as likely to be offended (it's hard to offend a humble person).
 - ✓ There is great humility in realizing that we came naked into the world and naked we will return.
 - ✓ There is great humility in taking up a cross.
 - ✓ So, every day when I take up my cross, I lose it all.
 - ✓ Every day I die to myself and my stuff. There is a lot of humility and sobriety in that.
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- **It relieves me from many, if not all, my fears:**
 - ✓ Think with me. What are the things we fear the most? Losing it all, right?
 - ✓ I'm afraid my stuff is going to be stolen or destroyed. I'm afraid something is going to happen to my loved ones. I'm afraid of losing my health. Isn't that the way you are as well?
 - ✓ These are things we think we want to protect and keep, and there isn't anything necessarily wrong with that.
 - ✓ Nevertheless, there is a cure for being fearful concerning those things.
 - ✓ If we will, every day, lay all that stuff down and confess that those things don't provide our security, every day dying to self, dying to our agenda, taking up our cross and following Christ, fear will have little power over us.
 - ✓ When that stuff actually goes, and it will, it won't be that big of a deal anymore.
 - ✓ "I cannot be robbed of anything that was ever actually mine." Isn't that an interesting statement?
 - ✓ I don't own anything, and nothing really belongs to me anyway, so I can't actually lose what is really mine. This relieves me from most, if not all, of my fears.
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- **It gives me the benefits of death without dying:**
 - ✓ Every day, I die to myself and my agenda and what I think I deserve, and I take up my cross.
 - ✓ Have you ever tried to scare a dead man? It can't be done!
 - ✓ Threaten his possessions, his attachments, his life, he won't be phased.
 - ✓ Do you see what the Lord is doing for us by calling us to take up our cross? He is, among other things, insulating us to the inevitabilities of life.
 - ✓ He's making us impervious to trouble and fear in addition to arrogance and pride.
 - ✓ Every day I experience this constant death to myself and constant living for the Lord, constantly taking up my cross, "losing it all" every day.
 - ✓ If and when I do actually lose it all, it's not going to be that big of a deal.
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