



Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshiping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

Job's Suffering

By Ronn VanAndel

Scanning through the daily newspaper or watching the evening news reminds us of the daily trials and afflictions that so many people in the world daily endure. We wonder how individuals can cope when a tornado wipes out homes, when a civil war claims family members, when an accident claims a parent! What suffering and sorrow is sometimes experienced in this life.

And then we are reminded of the biblical man Job. Job was a man described as "blameless and upright", yet had an experience few of us could imagine. In one fell swoop, he lost his children, livelihood and good health. And yet, Job did not spend his time in blame. He did not put God against the wall and throw out accusing questions. Instead, in his speaking to friends and responding to God, Job showed, through his suffering, that an occasion had been given to demonstrate true godliness and faith. So through his example, we are given a model by which we ought to live.

Read the story of Job. It is an amazing account of perseverance. It is a striking illustration of the fact that God treasures faithfulness, obedience and righteousness. In fact, the entire book shows how the power of the devil is thwarted when people trust in God. This doesn't mean that suffering will not take place. Put simply, suffering and pain is a fact in a world of sin. If you doubt this, go back to those news events we spoke of earlier.

But the question is - how will we deal with it? Complain? Get angry? Blame God? Will that help?

Let's see Job's wonderful example of trust, faith and righteousness as an example of how we ought to live today. He shows that any action - good or bad - has a purpose in life. Our task is to trust that God's goodness and wisdom surpasses our human experience and emotions, and so is good for our life here on earth.

After reading Job, you too can say to God, "I know you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.My ears have heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you." (Job 42: 2,5).

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