

Aveleigh's Year of the Bible
March 11 2018, The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sermon: JOB, THE CRITICAL CRISIS
Selected Readings From Job 1 and 2

“There was a man named Job who worshipped God and was faithful to Him. He was a good man, careful not to do anything evil. He had seven sons and three daughters and owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, a thousand cattle and five hundred donkeys. He also had many servants and was the richest man in the east. One day God asked Satan, ‘Have you noticed my servant Job? There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is. He worships me.’ Satan replied, ‘Would Job worship you if he got nothing out of it? You’ve always protected him and his family. You’ve blessed everything he does. But you take away everything he has and he will curse you to your face’ ‘All right,’ the Lord said, ‘Everything he has is in your power. But you must not hurt Job himself.’ So Satan left to hurt Job. One day a messenger came running to Job. ‘We were plowing the fields with oxen,’ he said, ‘and he donkeys were nearby. Suddenly some Sabean terrorists attacked and stole them all. They killed every one of your servants except me. Another servant came and said, ‘Lightning just struck the sheep and all your shepherds and killed them all.’ Then another servant came and said, ‘Bands of Chaldean raiders came and attacked us and took away all your camels killed all your servants except me. I’m the only one who escaped to tell you. Then another servant came and said, ‘Your children were having a feast in the home of your oldest son when a storm swept in and blew the house down and killed them all.’ Then Job got up and tore his clothes in grief. He shaved his head and threw himself down to worship. He prayed, ‘Lord I was born with nothing and I will die with nothing. The Lord gave and now the Lord has taken away. May His name be praised.’ In spite of everything that had happened, Job did not sin by blaming God. Again, God asked Satan, ‘Did you notice My servant Job? He still worships me. You attacked him for no reason at all. But Job is still as faithful as ever.’ Satan replied, ‘If you hurt his body he’ll curse you to your face.’ The Lord said, ‘All right. He’s in your power. But you cannot kill him.’ And Satan made sores break out all over Job’s body Job went and sat by the garbage dump and took a piece of broken pottery to scrape his sores. Job’s wife said to him, ‘You’re still as faithful as ever, aren’t you? Why don’t you curse God and die?’ Job answered, ‘You are talking nonsense. When God sends us something good we welcome it. How can we complain when He allows us trouble?’ Even in all his suffering Job said nothing against God.”

HOW CAN WE CONNECTING WITH GOD IN A CRISIS ?

1. TELL GOD HOW YOU FEEL

“Cry out in the night...Pour out your heart like water in prayer to the Lord.”
Lam. 2:19 (NCV)

“I can't be quiet! I'm angry and bitter. I have to speak!” Job 7:11(TEV)

“because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” [Job 42:7](#)

2. PRAISE GOD IN SPITE OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

Job said, "I was born with nothing, and I'll die with nothing. The Lord gave, and now He has taken away. May His name be praised! In spite of everything that had happened, Job did not sin by blaming God." Job 1:21-22 (TEV)

What you can praise God for:

- That He is a good & loving God Job 10:12
- That He is all-powerful Job 36:22, 37:5,23
- That He notices every detail of my life Job 23:10, 31:4
- That He is in control Job 34:13
- That He has a plan for my life Job 23:14
- That He will protect me Job 5:11

“Even though the fig trees have no fruit and no grapes grow on the vines, even though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no grain, even though the sheep all die and the cattle stalls are empty, I’ll still be joyful and glad, because the Lord God is my Savior “ Hab.3:17-18 (TEV)

Job: *“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.”* Job 13:15 (KJV)

3. ASK GOD STRENGTH AND HELP *“Look to the Lord and His strength.”* Ps. 105:4 (NIV)

“God is the real source of wisdom and strength.” Job 12:13 (CEV)

“I can lie down and go to sleep, and I’ll wake up again, because the Lord gives me strength.” Ps. 3:5 (NCV)

“The Lord saves good people; He is their strength in times of trouble.” Ps. 37:39 (NCV)

“So here I am in the place of worship, eyes open, drinking in Your strength and glory.”
Ps. 63:2 (Msg)

4. KEEP FOCUSED ON GOD AND HIS PROMISES *“Therefore we do not lose heart...For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”* 2 Cor. 4:16-18 (NIV)

Jesus: *“(By) trusting Me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I’ve conquered the world.”* John 16:33 (Msg)

Prayer: Mighty God who loves both the strong and the frighten, deliver us in our hour of crisis. Amen.

- FOUR FOR THE ROAD:**
- 1 What does a crisis look like to you?
 - 2, Do you know anyone that is in crisis?
 - 3, How could Christ help someone in crisis?
 - 4, What might you do when you find yourself in your next crisis?

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Prayer of confession

Lord, we do look to You for strength and help because You are our rock and our fortress. You can't be shaken. You invite us to find comfort in Your strong arms. And in You we can find rest for our souls. So today Lord we say in faith You are a good God. Give us Your strength, because even though we often act like it deep down inside we really don't want to live on our own power. So in this moment we surrender all that we are and all that we are not to You. Here we are, Lord, in this place of worship. Our eyes are open, drinking in Your strength and Your glory because You and You alone are the strength of our hearths. Through the strong name of Jesus we pray. Amen.