

Preacher: Dr. James R. Russom

Note: This outline follows the “Three Questions” and “Five Movements” taught in our Preaching Courses here at NBC.

Movements: ME WE GOD YOU WE

Questions: What? So What? Now What?

Sermon Title: The Danger of Disappointment

Scripture: Passage/Texts

Job 1:20-22 (NIV) Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)

One Main Idea of the Sermon: Becoming disappointed with God leads to spiritual destruction.

Goal for Life Application: Learning to worship and trust the Lord in the midst of trial, because your hope is in Christ and His loving care.

INTRODUCTION

ME

I do not like being disappointed. Just like everybody else I have expectations, and of course I am always confident that my expectations are realistic, therefore when they do not come about, I have the right to feel disappointed. And surely, the Lord knows that I can justify being upset! You know, I just don't like being disappointed.

WE

Have you ever been disappointed? It is an experience common to us all. Sometimes we are disappointed over little things, and at other times we are disappointed with people and/or situations that are of extreme importance to us. Regardless, being disappointed is not a pleasant experience. When you found yourself disappointed; did you handle it gracefully, or did you get upset? I think getting upset is a natural human response, but that does not always make it the best response, especially if the person we are getting upset with, is the Lord!

Transition Statement:

God has something to say about what to do when you are disappointed with the way things are turning out. He provides us with a great example in the life of one of his servants named Job. And furthermore, he teaches us the best way to deal with disappointment when it happens.

Scripture: Passage/Text: We will examine both an Old Testament and New Testament text: We will look at our OT text first, and then turn to our NT text.

Job 1:20-22 (NIV)

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship

²¹ and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

GOD

What? (What does God have to say about this?)

Job is tested by things in life that were certainly different than what he expected. In Chapter I of the story he faces some important realities:

In one day, Job was stripped of his wealth. One after another, four frightened messengers reported that 500 yoke of oxen, 500 donkeys, and 3,000 camels were stolen in enemy raids; 7,000 sheep were struck by lightning and killed; and all 10 of his children were killed by a windstorm. King Solomon was right: "Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them" (Eccl. 9:12, NIV).

Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - Old Testament - The Bible Exposition Commentary – Wisdom and Poetry.

- God allows Satan to tempt us and test us with adversity and unexpected trouble
- God allows injustice to impact our lives – people steal from us, falsely accuse us
- God allows nature to take its course – we are not immune from natural disaster
- God allows the results of living in a broken world to touch our lives

Of course when these things happen we are tempted to cry out... **THIS IS NOT FAIR!**

Satan loves to whisper in our ear.... **IF GOD REALLY LOVED YOU...**

We are tempted to believe that God owes us... **HOW COULD GOD LET THAT HAPPEN?**

Several important truths emerge... that will set us free

1. **God is Sovereign** – He is on the throne and He is in control no matter what happens
2. **Satan is the prince of this world** and he has a reign of terror – But God is bigger than that and can make us adequate for his attacks if we trust the Lord
3. **Bad things happen to good people** and when they do it does not mean that they are under the wrath or judgment of God. God found not fault in Job.
4. **Satan can touch God's people only with God's permission, and God uses it for their good and His glory**

NOTE: We know that it is God's will that we become like Christ, but in order to become like Christ we must be willing to share in suffering as well as glory! It has been said, that no one really comes to grip with their mission in life until after they have suffered.

Peter reminds us:

1 Peter 5:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

If you had suffered the kind of loss that Job had suffered... would you handle it the way Job did?

Job 1:20 (NIV)

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship

Job expressed his grief – he did not ignore it... vs. 20

Job did not wallow in his grief, he overcame it through worship... vs. 20

Job 1:21 (NIV)

²¹ and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

Job looked back to his birth – God have me all I have

Job looked ahead to his death – I cannot take it with me

(No U-hauls accompanying caskets)

Job looked up and worshipped – The Hebrew word blessed denotes to kneel as an act of adoration, and notice that Job did this in the midst of sorrow!

Job moved beyond how he felt to what he knew... It all belongs to God He can do as He wills and later in Chapter 13: 5 Job says: "Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him."

That my friend is an unshakeable faith in God!

Job 1:22 (NIV)

²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Instead of blaming God He blessed him!

So What? (Why is it important to know this?)

If you put your trust in the Lord it is possible to endure the toughest tests of life without becoming so disappointed that you blame God instead of blessing Him and thus avoid the sin of becoming bitter, doubting, distrusting, and disobeying. If God helped Job to do this, than how much more will he help those of us who live this side of the cross!

Transition Statement:

If God helped Job to do this, then how much more will He help those of us who live this side of the cross! You know how I know this is true? Because I have both failed and succeeded in this area of trust and obedience.

Let me share my story:

I came to NBC because God said come and everything went downhill!

- Tough job, slinging a sledge hammer in a foundry making ½ the wage I made before
- Car broke down
- Baby got sick
- Wife got discouraged
- I blamed God, said it is not fair, and withheld my tithe
- AND as Dr. Phil would say, "How's that working for you?" Well it wasn't. My wife got fed up with my pouting, blaming and disobedience and demanded that we start tithing again. Guess what God did? He taught me an important lesson...

"EVERYTHING WE HAD LOST MADE ROOM FOR GOD TO GIVE US MORE."

You see when I stopped blaming God and started worshipping him and trusting him everything changed... but mainly I changed!

I MOVED BEYOND HOW I FELT TO WHAT I KNEW and what I know is found in God's Word.

Transition: Now let us look to the words of the Apostle Paul who helps us understand that we can face disappointment with the help and hope of the Lord.

Romans 5:1-4 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

REJOICE IN SUFFERING – JOY DOES NOT DEPEND UPON CIRCUMSTANCES

TAKE HOPE IN GOD'S GLORY - GOD HAS YOUR BEST INTEREST AT HEART

HE GIVES YOU...

PERSEVERANCE – THE ABILITY TO HANG IN THERE

CHARACTER – MATURITY – GROWTH IN CHRISTLIKENESS

HOPE – A POSITIVE EXPECTANCY THAT THE SOVEREIGN GOD WILL MAKE IT ALL WORK OUT FOR THE GOOD

LOOK AT WHAT GOD SAYS IN ROMANS CHAPTER 5:

Romans 5:5 (NIV)

⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

**WHEN I QUIT BLAMING GOD AND WORSHIPPED (BLESSED) HIM,
DISAPPOINTMENT AND DISCOURAGEMENT GAVE WAY TO DETERMINATION
AND POSITIVE EXPECTATION**

I MOVED BEYOND WHAT I FELT, TO WHAT I KNOW:

GOD LOVES ME – THAT HAS NOT CHANGED

HE EVEN LOVES ME ENOUGH TO DISCIPLINE ME AS A SON!

HE IS ENABLING ME TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS

AND THEN I REALIZED THAT THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS RIGHT:

Romans 8:31-32 (NIV)

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

CONCLUSION:

Now What? (How do we apply this text to our lives?)

So you came to NBC on campus or online with great expectations. Or you arrived at your first ministry position with grand dreams. Has everything worked out the way you expected? Yes? Then rejoice and get ready... it could change at any time. What will you do?

No, nothing has turned out like I thought? So have you blamed God and decided that He has forgotten your address? Are you discouraged? Has your beautiful dream become a nightmare?

When things turned sour like a lemon; did you turn sour also, or did you make lemonade?

How does God want you to respond when you get disappointed... and especially if you are feeling disappointed with Him?

YOU (Clarifying the Response for the individual/congregation)

- First, confess your disappointment, confusion and anger... God already knows about it, but go ahead and admit your feelings... God can handle it. And if you have been blaming God instead of blessing him...repent... God will forgive you and cleanse you!
- Second, turn from feelings to faith.... Since faith is based upon the Word of God, it means that you turn from what you feel to what you know.
- Third, put your faith in God's Character and His Word:

You know that God is Sovereign and does all things well

You know that God loves you... He always has and always will

You know that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him and are the called according to His Purpose

You know that God is more interested in your character than your comfort and it is His will that through suffering, we become more like Christ

You know that God has promised not to leave you nor forsake you... He is with you.

THEREFORE... BY FAITH

Will you choose to bless God instead of blaming Him?

Will you let him change your disappointment and discouragement to determination to love Him and serve Him?

Will you let God perfect your faith and make you so strong and resolute, so that you can say as Job said, "Though he slay me, yet will I serve Him."

Will you acknowledge that all you are and all you have is HIS... and thus whether he chooses to give or take away... you will trust Him?

THEN WHY NOT MAKE THOSE CHOICES NOW AND EXPERIENCE THE RESTORATION OF YOUR JOY AND THE ENCOURAGING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE?

GIVE YOURSELF ANEW AS A LIVING SACRIFICE TO THE LORD... LET HIM ENABLE YOU TO TURN LOOSE OF YOUR DISCOURAGEMENT AND LET HIM GIVE YOU A DETERMINATION TO SERVE HIM INSTEAD!

CONFESS YOUR ANGER... GOD ALREADY KNOWS ANYWAY, HE JUST NEEDS YOU TO AGREE THAT YOU NEED TO REPENT FROM BLAMING HIM AND INSTEAD CHOOSE TO BLESS HIS HOLY NAME WITH YOUR LOVE , WORSHIP AND OBEDIENCE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRAY? THIS COULD BE YOUR DAY OF VICTORY!

WE

(Inspirational statement, "sticky statement" – a dismissal statement that helps the congregation remember the main focus of the message.)

Let us say as David said in Psalm 34:1 (KJV)

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

I will bless and not blame!