

Temptation through Adversity

Lesson from Job

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What We Will Learn

- God permitted Devil to tempt Job
- Within a wide but limited scope
- Devil used external agents
- To send adversity to Job
- Destroyed his wealth and possession
- God protects us from temptation but may permit the devil to tempt a person
- Job 1

Upright, Blameless, Successful

- Everything was going well with Job
- God-fearing man that shunned evil
- Wealthy in possession and reputation
- Led his family in worship
- Job 1:1–5

Job 1 (NIV)

1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

2 He had seven sons and three daughters,

3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

Job 1 (NIV)

4 His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

5 When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s regular custom.

Devil Permitted to Tempt Job

- Devil sought permission to tempt Job
- Devil's case against Job
 - His commitment to God
 - Depend on his wealth and happiness
 - Remove these
 - And his commitment will end
- God permitted Satan to tempt Job
- But set limits for the devil
- Job 1:6–12

Job 1 (NIV)

6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.

7 The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

- Satan was not invited to the gathering
- But came with its own mission

Job 1 (NIV)

8 Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

9 “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied.

Job 1 (NIV)

10 “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

Job 1 (NIV)

12 The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”

Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

What We Have Learnt So Far

- God protects us from temptation
- May at times permit a temptation
- But limits the scope
- Temptation comes from the devil
- Devil seeks ways to win souls to his side
- And will do what it can to succeed

Job Tempted through Adversity

- Everything went wrong
 - Oxen and donkeys hijacked by Sabeans
 - Sheep destroyed by unexplained fire
 - Camels hijacked by Chaldeans
 - Children killed in weather-related accident
- Lost everything
- Except physical health, body, and spirit
- Job 1:13–19

Job 1 (NIV)

13 One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,

14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby,

15 and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

Job 1 (NIV)

16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

Job 1 (NIV)

17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

Job 1 (NIV)

18 While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house,

19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

Job Attacked through Devil's Agents

- Sabean raiders against oxen and donkeys
- Fire from nowhere against sheep
- Chaldean raiders against camels
- Unusual severe weather against children
- Devil did not approach Job directly
- Used external agents to steal, damage, or destroy something important to Job

Devil's Options for Attack

- Unlimited
- Within scope that God permits
- Direct as in temptations of Jesus
 - Tries to lure a person to sin
- Indirect, through agents, as in case of Job
 - Introduces adversity
 - To challenge commitment to God
 - Dilute or divert focus from serving God

What We Learned

- God protects us from temptation
- May permit temptation within limited scope
- Devil may tempt a person directly
- Or through external agents
- Introducing adversity
- To challenge commitment to God
- Dilute or divert focus from serving God
- Future study on responding to temptation