

My Life, My Faith, My Hope

Introduction

1. In chapters 12-14 of the book of Job, it sort of divides itself out in three main thoughts.
 - A. "My Life" (chapter 12)
 - B. "My Faith" (chapter 13)
 - C. "My Hope" (chapter 14)
2. Let's take a moment and look at these three thoughts.

"My Life"

1. Job replied to all three friends and reminded them that he had wisdom as well as they did.
 - A. All of God's creation knew the things that they said to him.
2. God is great. His hand made everything (v.6).
 - A. His hand keeps everything alive (v.10).
3. Job wanted to die and escape his suffering, but God held his life in His hand.
Acts 17:24-28
Colossians 1:16-17
4. If our lives are in God's hands, do we really have anything to fear?

What About Suicide?

1. **There are thousands of people who kill themselves (commit suicide) every year.**
2. **Everyone needs to understand, as did Job, that the life of every living thing is in God's hand**

Job 12:10 In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?

- A. **He has numbered our days and set a limit beyond which we cannot go.**

Job 14:5 Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.

Psalms 139:16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

- B. **Can we determine a limit sooner than He planned? Is suicide permissible?**

- 1) **Job's wife counseled her husband to curse God and invite His judgment, but Job rejected that suggestion as foolish. (Job 2:9-10).**
- 2) **Job wanted to die (Job 6:8-10; 7:15-16) but did not assume that he had the right to take his own life.**

3. **Our lives are in God's hand, and our times are in His hand.**

Psalms 31:15 My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me.

4. **There is no incident in the Bible of a godly person committing suicide.**
 - A. **Saul rebelled against God (1 Samuel 31:3-5).**
 - B. **Zimri was a rebel and a conspirator (1 Kings 16:8-20).**
 - C. **Judas betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:4-5).**
 - D. **Samson's death (Judges 16:23f) appears to be more martyrdom than suicide.**

5. **The sixth commandment forbids murder.**

Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder.

6. **Man is made in the image of God, and we have no right to attack that image, even if we are suffering greatly.**
 - A. **In the Bible, men like Moses, Elijah, and Jonah became discouraged and wanted to die, but they did not attempt to take their own lives.**
 - 1) **Aristotle wrote: "To run away from trouble is a form of cowardice." and "while it is true that the suicide braves death, he does it not for some noble object but to escape some ill."**

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

“My Faith”

1. In chapter 12, Job saw God as his Creator, but now he sees Him as Judge in chapter 13.

A. “I desire to reason with God” (v.3).

1) Job would rather meet a just God than “worthless physicians” like his friends.

2. When we seek to help others, keep in mind that we are a witness and not a prosecuting attorney.

A. Even if God did condemn him, Job would still trust Him!

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

B. What GREAT faith Job had in his almighty God!

“My Hope”

1. In chapter 14 we can see the hope that Job had.
2. Like a flower, man is born to die. He disappears like a shadow or evaporating water.

Job 14:2 He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.

Job 14:10-12 But man dies and is laid away; Indeed he breathes his last
And where is he? As water disappears from the sea, And a river becomes
parched and dries up, So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens
are no more, They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep.

A. Our days are numbered, but do we have a future?

Job 14:5-6 Since his days are determined, The number of his months is
with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass. Look away
from him that he may rest, Till like a hired man he finishes his day.

- 1) Even a tree will grow again after it is cut down (v.7).
 - 2) But what about man?
3. The truth about the resurrection was not fully revealed in Old Testament days, but Job still rested his hope on God.
 - A. God has revealed the hope that His people have because of faith in Christ Jesus.
 - John 11:25-26**
 - 1 Corinthians 15** (don't read the whole chapter)
 - 2 Timothy 1:9-10**

Conclusion

1. Job was a man brought to his knees with everything Satan could do to him except take his life.
2. Through his life, faith, and hope, he shows us how we should respond to anything this world can throw at us.
3. Even in the darkest of times, let us remember that life is a sacred thing, in that we were made in the very image of God.
 - A. Life is filled with various tests so that we can know that our faith and hope rests not in the things of this world, but in living for our almighty God.
4. Keep the faith as we long for the hope of heaven that awaits us!

Invitation

Place _____

Date _____
