

## How to Be Restored After Suffering Job 42:7-17

ETS: Job illustrated how a righteous person suffers and experiences restoration

ESS: I want believers to suffer as righteous people and enjoy God's restoration

OSS: To suffer as righteous people

PQ: Are you suffering as a righteous person?

UW: Suffering

ME

We are wrapping up our series on Suffering

The **REASON** for the **Book of Job** is to answer the question:

**HOW SHOULD A RIGHTEOUS PERSON SUFFER?**

We've been talking about **HOW** a Righteous Person should go through suffering!

How does a **righteous person** suffer?

**A Righteous Person Suffers in Total Surrender**

How is Total Surrender Possible in Suffering?

**Accepting both BLESSING and ADVERSITY as coming from God!**

WHAT keeps a “righteous” person anchored in the midst of suffering?

**A Righteous Person FOCUSES on God’s Attributes**

WHAT keeps a “righteous” person anchored in the midst of suffering?

**A Righteous Person Holds Fast to His/Her Faith**

WHAT MISTAKE must a “righteous” person avoid in the midst of suffering?

**Avoids NOT Vindicating God**

God has **finished vindicating** Himself to Job!

- God never tells Job WHY He allowed Job to suffer!
  - Instead, God reminded Job of **WHO He was**, **what HE did** and **What He is doing**

What about the “other side” of suffering?

How do we experience restoration from suffering?

- What if you are the VICTIM of someone’s sin and it resulted in your suffering and you are coming out on the “other side” of suffering? (i.e., [divorce](#), [abuse](#), [etc.](#))

- What if you brought the **suffering upon yourself** due to **personal sin** and you are coming out on the “**other side**” of suffering? (i.e., alcoholism, drug abuse, pornography, an affair, etc.)
- What if you are the VICTIM of a **disease** and you are coming out on the “**other side**” of suffering?

## GOD

Turn to **Job 42** as we conclude our series.

What should you do as you **emerge** on the “**other side**” of suffering?

- **Job** has had his **audience** with **God**, and he **realized** his **mistake** in **not arguing** that God is **blameless** in allowing his suffering.
  - Yes, he did *not SIN* against God
  - Yes, he **proclaimed** God’s **Power** and **Wisdom**
  - NO—He **didn’t proclaim** God’s **blamelessness** in allowing His suffering; *instead, Job focused on his blamelessness.*
    - He was **more concerned** with **defending** his **honor** than **defending** God’s honor.

He has had **his audience with God**, and he **realized** he has **nothing to offer**: He is but **ashes and dust**.

Now, Job is emerging on the “other side” of suffering.

- His **boils** are starting to clear up
- The **pain** is quickly **diminishing**

Now, he must **decide** what he is **going to do** as he emerges from his suffering.

**Job 42:7** “After the Lord had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.

- God addressed **Eliphaz** because he was the **first to speak**, the **eldest** and the **leader** of the friends.

What did God mean when He said, “**you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has**”?

- If you read what Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar said about God it all seemed good and **accurate**.
- **PROBLEM:** They were stating that **God brought suffering** on Job because Job was a **wicked man**.
  - While suffering is often the result of sin, it is not **ALWAYS** the **result of sin!**
- **PROBLEM:** They **claimed to be speaking for God** when they were NOT speaking for God!
  - They were **WRONG** about **WHY** God allowed suffering to be happening to Job!

- Their **insistence** that **they KNEW** what they were talking about brought mental and emotional anguish upon Job.
  - They put Job in an **embarrassing** light
  - They **tarnished** Job's reputation
  - They **presented** God as **angry** and **judgmental** against Job, when God was not—**God was NOT angry at Job!**

**IMPORTANT:** Just because you are **suffering** does not mean God is **ANGRY** with you!

- Just because you are **suffering** does not mean God is **JUDGING** with you!

God may be allowing suffering to happen to

- **Strengthen** your faith
- To be an **example** to others of how a righteous person should suffer
- To **reorient** your **priorities**

When God spoke to **Eliphaz**, I am sure that took **Eliphaz** by **surprise!**

- He and his **friends** thought they were **doing God's bidding**—they were speaking for God!
- But now, God has something to say to **Eliphaz**
  - God **doesn't praise Eliphaz** and his friends!

- God says “I am angry with you and your two friends...”
  - That was *NOT expected!*
  - They **thought God agreed** with them all along.

When God says HE is ANGRY with you, that is **scary!**

- Btw, God **never said** to Job, “I am angry with you”

Why was God angry? “for you have not spoken the truth about me.”

**CAUTION:** When the REASON a person is suffering is **NOT clear** (e.g., sin), be **very careful**, in fact **avoid**, trying to explain **WHY** God is **allowing suffering** in **specific circumstances**.

- It is OKAY to say, “I don’t know **WHY** God is allowing **this to happen to you**” (or yourself)
  - We **DO NOT KNOW WHY** God does **WHAT HE** does!
    - God sees the **whole jigsaw puzzle** and **WE** don’t—all we see is the individual piece.
      - We don’t see why or how our suffering fits in to the puzzle.

For example, we look at **Isaiah 53** and see that this prophecy referred to Jesus' suffering for our sin, YET, Jewish **Rabbi's** typically **REJECT** that **interpretation**.

- WHY? Because it **doesn't make sense**—in their minds—why God would allow the Messiah to SUFFER?
  - This passage **doesn't fit all** the passages about the **Messiah** being **victorious** over the **nations** and **ruling** and **reigning** on the earth!
- So, they typically say **Isaiah 53** is **NOT** about the **coming Messiah**, but about the **nation of Israel**.
  - They could not understand how a **SUFFERING MESSIAH** fits into the whole **jigsaw** puzzle!

**REALITY:** The **SUFFERING MESSIAH** fits **PERFECTLY** into God's plan

- The **Messiah** had to **first defeat** the **greatest enemy**: **SIN** and **DEATH**!
- Defeating **political empires** and ruling on the earth is **secondary** to defeating sin and death!

God is **angry** with **Job's friends** because they spoke about what *they did not know about!*

God then says in **Job 42:8a** "Now take seven bulls and seven rams, go to my servant Job, and offer a burnt

offering for yourselves. Then my servant Job will pray for you....”

God is **challenging Job’s friends** to do **EXACTLY** what *they kept insisting Job do*: **Humble himself before God.**

- Job’s **friends** kept **saying** *“You need to repent and all will be good”* but that was not true.

Now, God is saying to Job’s friends, *“YOU are the ONES who need to humble yourselves because you didn’t know what you were talking about!”*

- *“In fact, you don’t need to humble yourself just before ME, but you need to TURN to Job for help!”*

JOB must make a **decision!**

- Job could have said, *“God, after all they put me through, after all they accused me of, I’m not going to do offer a sacrifice on their behalf!”*
  - Job could have said *“NO, I’m not going to help them!”*

Quite frankly, God is **testing** Job again!

- **Decision:** Is Job going to minister to the well-meaning friends who hurt him?
  - Is he going to INTERCEDE for them?



- Is Job going to obey God and intercede for his friends?
  - Notice that 4x's God calls Job His "servant"

What does a Righteous Person do on the "other side" of suffering?

**Obeys God**

Job could have said "Hey, my boils are clearing up and I am done with God!"

*Job doesn't STOP following God* because things are getting better—he keeps obeying God!

Sometimes people say, "God, if you will get me out of this, I will serve you" and then the issue clears up and they **forget** about their **promise** to follow God.

- A **righteous person obeys** God **BEFORE** the **suffering hits** and on the "**other side**" of the **suffering**!
  - DON'T make following God **contingent** upon *how GOOD you feel* or as some sort of **bargaining chip** with God!
    - Obey God before, during and on the "**other side**" of suffering!

Job's friends have to "*put their money where their mouth is!*"

- They have a clear **COMMAND** for God, and they have to decide: Are we going to obey God or not?
  - Are we going to be “righteous” in our response to God?
- **Command:** Go to Job!
- **Command:** Ask Job to PRAY for them!

What does a Righteous Person do on the “other side” of suffering?

### Prays for Those Who Hurt You

**Job 42:8a** “Now take seven bulls and seven rams, go to my servant Job, and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. Then my servant Job will pray for you....”

Suffering may **NOT** always be the **result of someone else’s actions**, but **IF IT IS**, a **righteous person prays** for those who **hurt him/her**.

- Job could have said “I’m not going to pray for these people who hurt me!”
- God made Job a **mediator** to his friends.
  - In a way this **VINDICTED Job** as a “**righteous man**” in front of his friends—Job’s **suffering** was **NOT** a result of **personal, unrepentant sin**!
    - God’s **AFFIRMATION** of Job, was part of the **healing process**!

- Job’s friends had brought nothing but grief to Job; God was giving Job a reason to smile!

If you go back to **Job 1**, Job was a **man of intercession**: He was always offering **burnt sacrifices** on behalf of his **children** and brought him **comfort**.

- Now, after his suffering, Job has the **opportunity** to offer **sacrifices** on behalf of his **friends**—and I think that gave him a **sense of happiness**.
  - Also, by **interceding** for those who had hurt him, **Job is released** from **harboring** any **hostility** in his **heart** against them.

**Job 42:10** After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and **doubled** his previous possessions.

- Interestingly the phrase “After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes” can be (and is in many other **older** or more **literal** translations) **interpreted** as “And Jehovah turned the captivity of Job”

For example:

- And the Lord **released Job** from captivity when he prayed for his friends.

- And Jehovah **turned** the **captivity** of Job, when he prayed for his friends:

*Job's act of praying for his friends is **DIRECTLY** linked to "RESTORATION"*

*IF your suffering is the result of someone else's SIN, the **WORST** thing you can do is harbor bitterness against them!*

- **Bitterness** is **poison** that you **swallow** while you **wait** for the other person to die!
  - Bitterness **poisons** YOU!
    - It slowly **KILLS** you
    - It **robs** you of **joy**
    - It keeps you in **captivity**.

*The **antidote** to **BITTERNESS** is praying for those who sinned against you!*

What did **JESUS** do on the cross?

- He **prayed** for those who were **persecuting** Him:  
"Father forgive them for they know not what they are doing."

The **antidote** to **BITTERNESS** is **praying** for those who sinned against you!

- I'm not talking about saying a prayer here and there—I'm talking about **daily, concerted prayer** for them!
  - I'm talking about **taking your pain to God and letting it go**
  - I'm talking about **praying** for their **repentance** and **restoration**

*You cannot be **bitter** for people you are praying for!*

Go back to v. 8: **Job 42:8b** “....I will surely accept his prayer and not deal with you as your folly deserves. For you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.”

- God's **promise** makes **Job's challenge** even more **difficult!**
  - God is saying *“I am not going to give you all what you deserve **IF** Job prays for you!*

**CHALLENGE:** What if God told you that as a result of your prayers for someone who brought suffering upon you, He would not **“deal with them as their folly deserves”** would you still pray for them?

- When you intercede for someone, your goal is his/her **restoration!**
  - **Restoration** via **repentance!**

- When you **intercede** for someone, your goal is NOT **retaliation** or **revenge**!

**Job 42:9** Then Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord had told them, and the Lord accepted Job's prayer."

- Despite their **mess up** in trying to **explain** WHY God was **allowing** Job to **suffer**, these were **well-meaning** friends who I **think loved God**, obeyed God!
  - They **humbled themselves** before **God**
  - They **humbled themselves** before **Job** by admitting they were wrong
  - They **OBEYED** God

*If* you OBEY GOD if you are willing to intercede for those who have hurt you, *God will bring restoration.*

In **Job's case** the **restoration** was during his **lifetime**;

**Job 42:10** After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and **doubled** his previous possessions.

- Did Job ask God to **restore** his fortunes to him? **NO**
- Did Job ask God to "**double his previous possessions**"? **NO**

The **audience with God** would have been **enough** for Job—that experience would have carried him through the rest of his life.

- But God can—*and often does*—more than we could expect or imagine on the other side of suffering!

Job was **FREED** from any **anger** or **bitterness** against God and against his friends!

- *I'm not sure if* God would have “**doubled**” Job’s possessions if he HAD **NOT** OBEYED God!
  - *I'm not sure if* God would have blessed Job **MATERIALLY**, if he had not been restored **SPIRITUALLY**!
    - WHY? *Because God could not have trusted Job again with **MATERIAL** wealth if Job refused to continue to live as a “**Righteous man**” before the Lord!*

Because of Job’s obedience, God decided to once again entrust Job with material possessions and the attention it would bring!

What does a Righteous Person do on the “other side” of suffering?

**Accepts Ministry from Others**

Job **accepted** the **apologies** of **well-meaning**, but **misguided friends** who came to him and tried to help.

WHAT about the others?

**Job 42:11** All his brothers, sisters, and former acquaintances came to him and dined with him in his house. They sympathized with him and comforted him concerning all the adversity the Lord had brought on him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold earring.

- WHERE were these people in the midst of Job's suffering?
  - They may have **stayed clear of Job** because they didn't **want** to be **seen** with him
  - They may **have stayed clear of Job** because they didn't **know what to do or say**

WHO KNOWS! But, now that Job is back on the **mend**, *they all show up!*

- **CHALLENGE:** Not to **harbor resentment** towards those who abandoned him in his suffering!

**Jesus** was abandoned in His suffering!

- **Abandoned** by His **disciples** and most of His friends and His followers!



- YET, *after the resurrection, Jesus goes to the very people who abandoned Him.*
  - He didn't harbor resentment; He just goes forward with them.

It appears that Job's **acquaintances** and **friends** apologize for their **abandonment**

- They **sympathized with him and comforted him**
- They **"gave him a piece of silver and a gold earring**

**REALITY:** Even when you are on the **"Other side"** of suffering, that doesn't mean there is still some **residual pain**—in fact, that pain may be for the **rest of your life!**

- Notice that his friends and family **"sympathized with him and comforted him"** and this was **DURING** or **AFTER** God had restore Job's material possessions!
  - Job still felt the **STING** of pain
    - His **10 children** before this began were NOT coming home!
    - His **servants** who were killed were not coming back
    - He probably still felt a **lot of hurt** from what his **wife** said to
- Job still needed comfort after his restoration!

**REALITY:** There are some people who are afraid to come around during a time of suffering because they feel like they don't know what to say or do, but they will come around when things start to improve.

- Job could have **harbored resentment** towards his friends/family who abandoned him during his suffering, but instead, he accepts their comfort and sympathy.
  - God uses **different people** at **different stages** to **minister to us!**

WHEN you go through suffering *there may be some who don't come around*, but who later show up to help when you are on the "other side".

- Don't **resent** them, but rather **accept** their comfort
  - God gives us **different people** at **different stages** to **minister in different ways.**

In this case, Job's **friends/family sympathized**, and **comforted** Job AND they **blessed** Job **materially** to help him get back on his feet.

What does a Righteous Person do on the "other side" of suffering?

**Enjoys God's Blessings**

**Job 10:12-17** So the Lord blessed the last part of Job's life more than the first. He owned fourteen thousand sheep and goats, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. 13 He also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 He named his first daughter Jemimah, his second Keziah, and his third Kerenhappuch. 15 No women as beautiful as Job's daughters could be found in all the land, and their father granted them an inheritance with their brothers. 16 Job lived 140 years after this and saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. 17 Then Job died, old and full of days.

- *Before the adversity, Job had 7 sons and 3 daughters. After the adversity he had 7 sons and 3 daughters.*
  - They were “**Double**” because the first group was in heaven and now he had additional ones on earth.
  - It also is some evidence that Job's relationship with his wife was restored to goodness as before.

At the beginning of the story of Job we find a blessed and righteous man

- On the “other side” of suffering, we find a man **more blessed and righteous.**

What **Satan** meant to be the **destruction** for Job, *God turned into a blessing for Job.*

- **Satan** meant to **destroy Job's faith**; *God made it stronger!*
- Satan meant to **destroy Job's reputation**; *God increased Job's reputation*
- Satan meant to **destroy Job's ministry**; *God increased Job's ministry.*

All this increase came at the expense of suffering, but it was worth it!

- **God** was **vindicated**
- **Job** was **vindicated**
- **Satan** was again **proven wrong!**
  - BTW, **Satan never apologizes** to Job
  - **Satan** never does anything to **restore Job**
    - WHY? Because Satan is a **liar, thief** and **destroyer**. *His goal is to DESTROY people NOT to RESTORE people!*

## WE

To be honest, *God may NOT do for US on the "other side"* of suffering what He did for Job—at least in this life!

- WE may **not** be **blessed** with "**double**" of whatever we lose
- WE may **not** see the **joy** of **restored relationships**

In the midst of his suffering, I believe the Holy Spirit revealed something to Job that he had not previously realized: **Job 19:25-27** “But I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the end he will stand on the dust. 26 Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh. 27 I will see him myself; my eyes will look at him, and not as a stranger. My heart longs within me.

- Job was **blessed materially** on the “**other side**” of suffering, *but that was NOTHING compare to what he saw on the “other side” of this life!*
  - Job came face-to-face with his “**Redeemer**”- Jesus

Suffering may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

- A righteous person may not have the same ending as Job in this life, but you will have the **same blessing in the next life!**
  - You will see your “**Redeemer**”
  - You will experience **unhindered communion** with God
  - You will never experience **pain, sorrow** or **sickness** again!

You will enjoy **God’s blessing** for **eternity!**

- The great British Baptist preacher, Charles Spurgeon said *“We are not all like Job, but we all have Job’s God. Though we have neither risen to Job’s wealth, nor will, probably, ever sink to Job’s poverty, yet there is the same God above us if we be high, and the same God with his everlasting arms beneath us if we be brought low; and what the Lord did for Job he will do for us, not precisely in the same form, but in the same spirit, and with like design.”*

The Challenge in Suffering is NOT to try to figure out the WHY, but to live the HOW!

- We need to face suffering as a **“Righteous person”** would suffer

WHEN you are confronted with suffering:

- Suffer in Total Surrender to God
- Accept both blessing and adversity as coming from God
- Focus on who God is and what He has done
- Hold on to your faith
- Vindicate God
- Obey God
- Pray for those who have hurt you
- Accept ministry from others
- Enjoy the blessings God provides

PQ: Are you going to suffer as a righteous person?