

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 3:1-26

1 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. 2 And Job said: 3 "Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, A man is conceived. 4 Let that day be darkness May God above not seek it nor light shine upon it. 5 Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. 6 That night—let thick darkness seize it! Let it not rejoice among the days of the year, let it not come into the number of the months. 7 Behold, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry enter it 8 Let those curse it who curse the day who are ready to rouse up Leviathan 9 Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it hope for light, but have none, nor see the eyelids of the morning,10 because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, nor hide trouble from my eyes. 11 "Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire? 12 Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse? 13 For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest, 14 with kings and counselors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves,15 or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. 16 Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child as infants who never see the light? 17 There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. 18 There the prisoners are at ease together; they hear not the voice of the taskmaster. 19 The small and the great are there, and the slave is free from his master.20 "Why is light given to him who is in misery and life to the bitter in soul who long for death, but it command dig for it more than for hidden treasures,22 who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave? 23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in? 24 For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water. 25 For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. 26 I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes."





DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 3:1-26

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Over the past eight plus years, I have been part of the leadership for Stonepoint's re:generation ministry. Over that time I have had many conversations with both men and women who were, or had been, in very dark despair due to circumstances beyond their control. Many times these circumstances were the result of their sin problems but not always.

In Job chapter 3, we find that this is where Job is. As we learn from chapters 1 and 2, we know that his despair is not due to anything he had done. He had lost everything - children, livelihood, and health. Job is questioning his existence and why. He is not suicidal, but he is questioning what his purpose was from the beginning if it has come to this. Several commentaries about this chapter label it, second to Mathew 27:46, as the saddest verses in the Bible.

I know that we have all felt overwhelmed to different degrees at times. I know for myself that I have never been to the place that Job was at. We must remember that the relationship that Job had with God was completely different from what God has made available to us through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin". So if we take all our thoughts (praises, blessings, disappointment, and struggles) to God first through prayer, he will comfort us directly and keep us from ever starting down a path of darkness similar to the one Job was on. I know personally that the joy I live with since surrendering and following Christ overshadows any disappointment that the world may throw at me.

Questions:

- 1. Do you have a Journey Group that will pray with you and for you if you are in despair? If not, join <u>GroupLink</u> this Sunday or join <u>re:generation</u> on Mondays.
- 2. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ? Or do you just know of Him?
- 3. What is the difference between joy and happiness? Look up some scriptures on joy to help answer this question.

