

Impact 3:16

A Desperate Man (Jb 3:16)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Thank you to...
 - i. The elders for allowing us to have this great lectureship.
 - ii. The congregation here and its continued stand for truth.
 - iii. The BTSOP students and the hard work they always put in.
 - iv. J.J. Hendrix and his tireless dedication to this lectureship and it's continued growth. I know with him running it, it will only get better and better.
2. My text today.
 - a. **Jb 3:16** "...why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light?"¹
3. Some initial thoughts.
 - a. Scripture abound with truths of the pain ones have been in because of the sin that is in the world.
 - i. **Ec 4:3** "But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun."
 - ii. **Je 20:14-18** "Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed! 15 Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, "A son is born to you," making him very glad. 16 Let that man be like the cities that the LORD overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon, 17 because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great. 18 Why did I come out from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?"
 - b. Each one here today has dealt with the difficulties of this life and each one here has, at some point, dealt with the mental struggle these difficulties bring.
 - i. Job is not one that could be characterized as one that was dealing with the "normal sadness people experience as they go through life." (Psalms: Managing Our Emotions by Peck, Timothy pg. 53)
 - ii. No he was dealing with "a depth of sadness that goes beyond the normal sadness" (Ibid)
 1. He was so depressed he wish the day of his birth had never come or that he had been buried still born!!!
4. Depression.
 - a. This is a major reality here in America.
 - i. "Approximately 18.8 million American adults, or about 9.5 percent of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year, have a depressive disorder." (<http://goo.gl/dv1xj>)
 - ii. "Depressive disorders are appearing earlier in life with the average age of onset 50 years ago being 29 whereas recent statistics indicate it at just 14.5yrs in today's society." (Ibid)

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Impact 3:16

5. We in America are a people that need to heed the book of Job.
 - a. Let us now therefore look at our text today and Job in general to determine how to handle this epidemic.
 - b. Job, when we consider all he went through, became...

I. A Desperate Man

- A. Consider what Job had
 1. Wife, 7 sons, & 3 daughters (a good family)
 2. 7,000 sheep
 3. 3,000 camels
 4. 500 yoke of oxen
 5. 500 female donkeys
 6. So many servants that it was understood Job was greatest of all the people of the east
 7. Good health
 8. The respect of others
- B. Consider what Job lost
 1. He lost all his livelihood in livestock.
 - i. His sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys...
 2. He lost all his kids.
 - i. 7 sons and 3 daughters
 3. He lost others respect.
 - i. His wife's and friends
- C. Consider how you would react to such a traumatic day
 1. Would you have...
 - i. Melted under the pressure
 - ii. Lashed out at everybody maybe even God
- D. Though Job was a desperate man he was...

II. An Unwavering Man

- A. Consider what Job did not do
 1. He did not curse God as his wife suggested.
 2. He could have given up on life and killed himself as his wife suggested.
 3. He could have found a hidden place, curled up in pain, and simply removed secluded himself from everyone.
- B. Consider what Job did do
 1. He showed a remarkable unwavering strength.
 - i. **Jb 1:21** "...Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."
 - ii. **Jb 2:10** "... You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil..."
 2. He did not charge God with doing wrong.
 - i. **Jb 1:22** "In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong."
 3. He did not sin with his lips.
 - i. **Jb 2:10** "...In all this Job did not sin with his lips."

Impact 3:16

- C. Consider what you would have done
 - 1. Today people's unfortunate first reaction is that of Job's wife.
 - i. They want to curse God.
 - 2. Today people's unfortunate second reaction is that of Job's wife too.
 - i. They want to "leave this life."
 - 3. How many people's reaction would be to stow away somewhere away from everyone.
- D. Though Job was an unwavering/uncompromising man, he was still...
 - 1. A rational man.

III. A Rational Man

- A. Consider that Job didn't become irrational
 - 1. He considered all the information and processed all the information.
 - 2. He took time to "think" things through and contemplate them.
 - 3. He sat at least seven days and nights envisaging.
- B. Consider that Job didn't lose his perspective
 - 1. He rationally concluded that everything he had was not his.
 - i. **Ps 24:1** "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein"
 - ii. **I Ch 29:11** "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all."
 - iii. **I Pt 4:10** "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"
 - 2. He rationally concluded that sometimes you cannot agree with others.
 - i. **Jb 6:1-3** "Then Job answered and said: 2 "Oh that my vexation were weighed, and all my calamity laid in the balances! 3 For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea; therefore my words have been rash."
 - ii. **Pr 14:7** "Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge."
- C. Consider how rational you would have been
 - 1. Could you have become so overwhelmed that you would illogically heed the advice of your spouse over God?
 - 2. Could you have become so flabbergasted that you would illogically heed the advice of your friends over God?
- D. Looking unto Job how can...
 - 1. Christians today can overcome the mental struggles of trials and tribulations and stop depression before it starts or fix it if it is already present?

IV. The Christian & Depression

- A. Depression is rampant all over the world because...
 - 1. The world has embraced sin as a good thing.
 - i. **Is 5:20** "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness..."

Impact 3:16

- ii. **Je 4:22** "For my people are foolish; they know me not; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are 'wise'—in doing evil! But how to do good they know not."
- 2. The world has embraced knowledge from every source but "the source."
 - i. **Is 5:13** "Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge; their honored men go hungry, and their multitude is parched with thirst."
 - ii. **Ho 4:6** "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."
- B. Most every form of depression can be cured without drugs
 - 1. It isn't by...
 - i. Miracle
 - a. **I Co 13:8-10** "Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away." (NKJV)
 - b. **Ja 1:25** "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."
 - ii. Overpowering self will
 - b. **Je 10:23** "I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps."
 - c. **Pr 14:12** "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."
 - 3. It's by...
 - i. Being a slave to Christ.
 - a. We will be too busy doing the "works of God" to be depressed.
 - 1. **Ep 2:10** "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."
 - ii. Being a cross bearer
 - a. We will be too busy thinking of Christ rather than our selves.
 - 1. **Mt 16:24** "Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Impact 3:16

- iii. Being a prayer giver
 - a. We will be too busy giving our anxieties to God to consider them.
 - 1. **Ph 4:6** “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”
- C. Thus...
- 1. If we give up this idea that it is about “me” and focus on the truth that it is about “Christ” we will have no need for supplemental enhancements.²

CONCLUSION

- 1. If Job can go through what he went through and stay an unwavering and rational man so too can we do the same under much less difficulties.
 - a. Always keep in mind...
 - i. **I Co 10:13** “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”
 - b. Most depression would rightly fall under the category of “temptation.”
 - i. There are none that fall into this temptation that cannot overcome it.
- 2. Question: Have you overcome the temptation of depression?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not? What is holding you back?
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**

² This is not dealing with those that have so severe a mental issue that they “cannot” think rationally ie these are those that are going to be in heaven because they are not responsible for their actions. Example: Mentally retarded people, multiple personality disorder, etc...