

## Obstacles to Thanksgiving

### The Book of Job

#### Introduction:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ pilgrims came from England to America in 1620
  - 1. Less than \_\_\_\_\_ survived the winter.
  - 2. In 1621 the pilgrims held a \_\_\_\_\_ day festival with the native Indians, thanking God for their harvest.
  - 3. How is it possible to have such thankfulness in the midst of such loss?
- B. Three possible reactions to circumstances
  - 1. Thank God
  - 2. Not thank God – take things for g\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Blame God – become God’s c\_\_\_\_\_
- C. The book of Job reveals four obstacles to thanksgiving
  - 1. Recognize these obstacles in your life
  - 2. Don’t let them keep you from thanksgiving

#### Obstacle #1 – P\_\_\_\_\_ (Chapter 1)

- A. The man named Job
  - 1. The most s\_\_\_\_\_ man on earth
  - 2. The w\_\_\_\_\_ man in the East
- B. Satan’s proposes that if God takes away Job’s wealth that Job would c\_\_\_\_\_ God.
  - 1. God p\_\_\_\_\_ Satan to take away his wealth.
  - 2. God forbids Satan to t\_\_\_\_\_ Job.
- C. Satan provides eyewitnesses to report to Job the destruction of his wealth.
  - 1. Job loses all his a\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Job loses all his s\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Job loses all his grown c\_\_\_\_\_
- D. Job’s reaction – he did not sin nor did he b\_\_\_\_\_ God.
- E. Application – testing our thankfulness
  - 1. A decrease in possessions – 1 Thess 5:18 commands us to be thankful \_\_\_\_\_ everything (or every circumstance)
    - a. This does not mean that we are to be thankful FOR the loss.
    - b. This does mean that we are to be thankful IN the loss.

2. An increase in possessions – 1 Tim 6:17,18 states that God has given us all things to enjoy.
  - a. This means that our increase ultimately comes from God – did you thank Him for the increase?
  - b. Do your actions show your thankfulness? – v. 18 states that our reaction to increase is to be g\_\_\_\_\_ and ready to share.

**Obstacle #2 – H\_\_\_\_\_ (2:4-8, 10)**

- A. Satan proposes that if Job was physically harmed, that he would c\_\_\_\_\_ God.
  1. God p\_\_\_\_\_ Satan to harm Job.
  2. God f\_\_\_\_\_ Satan to kill Job.
- B. Satan puts painful b\_\_\_\_\_ over Job's entire body, but in all this Job does not s\_\_\_\_\_ (2:10)
- C. Application
  1. The adversity in our lives are allowed by God to g\_\_\_\_\_ us, not to prove Satan wrong (Jms 1:2-4)
  2. When we are healthy for long periods of time, it is easy to take that good health for g\_\_\_\_\_ (make a habit to thank God for the simplest of things, like, to see, or walk.)
  3. Don't let ill-health keep you from thanking God (e.g. for your salvation, for medicine, for people who care).

**Obstacle #3 – P\_\_\_\_\_ (2:9,10; 5:17,18)**

- A. Some people take the roll of Satan in becoming an obstacle to Job in his course of thanksgiving.
  1. His w\_\_\_\_\_ wanted him to curse God and die (she was tired of seeing him suffer)
  2. His f\_\_\_\_\_ told him to repent of a hidden sin
    - a. They believed that ill health was due to personal sin.
    - b. Job argued that he knew of no sin that he committed.
  3. Job did not let the people in his life keep him from a course of thanksgiving
- B. Application
  1. There is no correlation between ill health and personal sin in the Bible
  2. God sometimes uses bad health to d\_\_\_\_\_ believers (e.g. I Cor 11:30)

- a. If that be the case, one will k\_\_\_\_\_ that God is disciplining them (Rev 3:19,20)
  - b. If that be the case, as soon as one r\_\_\_\_\_ the sickness will be no more (Jms 5:16).
3. The role of people in adversity
- a. Don't let people steer you away from thanking God.
  - b. You be an e\_\_\_\_\_ to those around you (not an obstacle).

**Obstacle #4 – T\_\_\_\_\_**

- A. Job's misfortune lasts for a very, very long time.
1. In Job 38:1 he q\_\_\_\_\_ God's judgment.
  2. God finally responds and reveals Job's wrong attitude.
  3. In Job 42, Job r\_\_\_\_\_ and returns to thankfulness.
- B. Sometimes we see time as the e\_\_\_\_\_.
1. All trials are designed by God to have an intended e\_\_\_\_\_ (Jms 1:2-4).
  2. Time is not the enemy, but the means by which our f\_\_\_\_\_ has the opportunity to shine.

**Conclusion:**

- A. What makes your life, a quality life?
1. Your w\_\_\_\_\_?
  2. Your h\_\_\_\_\_?
  3. The p\_\_\_\_\_ in your life?
- B. While all of the above can add to the quality of our lives, they are not to be the b\_\_\_\_\_. Our r\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus must be the basis (see Jn 10:10).

*Stay on the course of thanksgiving!*