

Well Thank Heaven

Job 42:10-17

10 And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. 11 Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold. 12 Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. 13 He also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch. 15 In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. 16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. 17 So Job died, old and full of days. (NKJV)

Do you remember that old song. Thank Heaven for Little Girls. It was a quite little song. But it should be our theme song. Now there are some in our congregation could surely sing that song. But the most of us should just stop with Thank Heaven.

We have struggled with Job through all his sorrows and disappointments. We have seen all that he had taken away ruthlessly. But in the end Job has it all back and more. And Job lives to see his grandchildren to the fourth generation. After he had come so close to death, yet he dies old and full of days.

More possessions as though you could use and extra thousand or so sheep or camels. There are some things that you can only use so many.

But he was greatly blessed by the Lord. He is even given another family and all his friends and relatives who had forsaken him in his time of trials have come back. But why? How?

Well we are not left to guess. It is the Lord's doing. The Lord seems to be trying to make up for all that He has put Job through.

The blessings of God are upon us and yet we don't seem to give him credit. Do you remember the second Thanksgiving meal, after three years was started with five kernels of corn to remind them of that second winter they had come through.

And the passage makes it clear that Job knew that the Lord was the one to be thanked.

- I. Job always knew where his blessings came from.
 - A. Job 1:21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."
 - B. Eccl 5:19 As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor — this is the

gift of God.

- C. This is the first step in Thanksgiving.
 - 1. Unlike the children of Israel in the wilderness, Job knew where his blessings had come from.
 - 2. The children of Israel in the wilderness had God all around them 24-7 but still they complained about everything.
 - a. Numbers 21:5 (NKJV) 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."
 - b. Deuteronomy 28:47 (NKJV) 47 "Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, 48 therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.
 - 3. But David told us to: 1Ch 16:34 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

II. Job's self-worth was not measured by what he had.

- A. Even though Job had twice as much as before, he was not twice as happy as before.

III. Job understood that everything is temporary.

- A. That did not depress Job.
 - 1. He knew how to enjoy the blessings of God while here on this earth.
 - 2. From the beginning of the story we see that Job had taught his children to enjoy this life.
 - 3. Eating and drinking is not sinful, God has blessed us and wants us to enjoy those blessings.
 - 4. But Job was fully aware that this life is a transitional place.
 - 5. Paul said in Php 4:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
- B. When the game is over, everything goes back in the box.
 - 1. In 2009 John Ortberg titled a book "When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box"

2. John Ortberg tells us we can take pretty much only what we brought to the game. Everything else goes back in the box—the cash atop the corporate ladder, the vacation home at the lake, and the status vehicle in between. All the tokens, game pieces, and prizes are left behind when you walk away from the table. The only real "winnings" you claim and keep are your own soul and the love you have for Christ and each other. If you think you might need a better game plan—one that offers an eternal perspective—this strategy-filled playbook walks you through what it takes to really win big at the game of life.
3. 1Tim 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

IV. Job knew that the true blessings come later.

- A. If we are not thankful for what we have now, we will not be thankful for riches.
- B. Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.
- C. Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
- D. All that we have ever lost or had to give up in this life will be restored to us manifold times in heaven.
- E. You see life was never meant to be hard like it is.
 1. The curse upon Adam and all following mankind was that in the sweat of your face will you eat bread all the days of your life.
 2. You see life was meant to be easy, without sin, death, disease, or other trials.
 3. And that is what we will one day have.
 4. For God will wipe away the tears from our eyes. And we will be blessed abundantly.
 5. All the joys of heaven will be ours.
 6. All the loved ones we have lost here, we will get them back there.
 7. The struggles of life will be over.

8. Like Job, after his trials were over, we will enjoy all that the Lord has meant for us.
9. Like the words of that old song. When all of our labors and trials are over and we are safe on that beautiful shore. Just to be near the one we adore of that will be glory, be glory for me.