

Praise You in the Storm; Job 1:20-21

- I. Tears
 - a. "I'm sure by now, God, you would have reached down and wiped our tears away"
 - b. Tears are a fact of life
 - i. Sorrow, suffering, pain, and tragedy are all part of life
 - ii. We are promised, as Christians, suffering
 - iii. 2 Timothy 3:10-14
 - c. When the pain comes, we tend to blame God instead of reaching out to Him for our strength and comfort
 - i. We think that God didn't answer our prayer because we have sinned
 - ii. We think that God is no longer with us because He didn't answer us
 - iii. We forget that God is a giver of good gifts
 - iv. James 1:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
 - v. James is talking about the passions at war within us and how they spill out into our relationships with one another and connects it to prayer
 - vi. James 4:1-3 (ESV) ¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
 - d. When the pain comes, we should be reaching out to the loving God who will wipe all our tears away
- II. Gives and Takes Away
 - a. "And as your mercy falls, I'll raise my hands and praise the God who gives and takes away"
 - b. Job
 - i. Job 1:20-21 (ESV) ²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said, "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. Most of us know the back story of Job and how he got to this point
 - iii. Job is described as blameless, upright, one who feared God, and one who turned away from evil (Job 1:1)
 - iv. He was wealthy; 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yokes of oxen, and 500 female donkeys
 - v. He had seven sons and three daughters
 - vi. Satan challenges God on Job's faithfulness, and God accepts the challenge
 - vii. Satan takes all his property and kills all his children
 1. Job is an honest portrayal of God allowing a good man to suffer

2. This test revealed God’s loving sovereignty and the supremacy of divine wisdom over human wisdom (We see Job’s friends try to provide what they thought was wisdom)
 3. But Job, believing that God is good despite the apparent evidence to the contrary, rested in his Faith
 4. Job 19:25 (ESV) ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
 5. Items 1-4 are from the ESV introduction to Job ¹
- c. Most of us are more like James’ portrayal and less like Job’s
- i. Like David, we want to shake our fists at God and blame Him for all the bad things that have happened to us
 - ii. But David always comes back to God as his sovereign, Creator, Refuge, and Strength!
 - iii. Psalm 121
 - iv. “But my strength is almost gone. How can I carry on if I can’t find you?”
 1. Is this our attitude?
 2. We just sang it!
 3. Instead of placing the blame on Him, we should be running into His presence, falling into his comforting arms
 4. Without God, our lives are hopeless
 5. Ephesians 2:12 (ESV) ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
 6. Leaving that text right there would certainly make us all shake our fists at God
 7. Ephesians 2:13 (ESV) ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- d. We find God in Christ
- i. Ephesians 2:4–6 (ESV) ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
 - ii. No matter the storm, it is Jesus that brings us to the Father so that He can wipe away our tears
- III. Praise You in the Storm
- a. “Every tear I've cried you hold in Your hand. You never left my side. Though my heart is torn I will praise You in this storm”
 - b. To whom do we turn?
 - c. Where do we run?
 - d. Whom do we blame?

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Job.

- e. God is the one who holds us, comforts us, keeps us
- f. There is nowhere else to go
- g. There is no one else to praise!