Crossroads International Church Singapore Dr. Rick Griffith

Title

6 May 2018 Message 18 of 66

NLT 60 Minutes

**Be Submissive**

***Book of Job***

**Topic:** Submission

**Subject:** What is the proper response to righteous suffering?

**Complement:** Be submissive to God’s incomprehensibility rather than trying to figure suffering out.

**Purpose:** The listeners will submit to God’s incomprehensibility during righteous suffering.

**Attribute:** We worship the God who is Incomprehensible

**Reading:** Job 37:23-24; benediction from 1 Peter 5:5b-11

**Song:** Indescribable (Chris Tomlin), When Trials Come (Getty)

# Introduction

### Interest: The book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* raises the issue that righteous suffering occurs and we don’t know how to respond.

Bad Things

(2 slides)

### Need: Think about how pain may hit you despite your innocence.

Need

#### What righteous suffering have you experienced in the past?

#### What issue are you going through now though it is undeserved?

### Subject: What is the proper response to righteous suffering?

Subject

### Background: In Job’s day the common belief was that suffering was always caused by sin but godliness that led to blessing. Therefore, the right response to suffering was simply to repent from sin. But is that the proper response to righteous suffering?

Proverbs

Theology

### Preview: Today we’ll see three steps to answer this question: the setting, the debate and the resolution to this problem of righteous suffering.

Preview

### Text: The entire book of Job is our text.

(What is the proper response to righteous suffering? Before we answer this question, let’s first see how difficulties came through no fault of his in Job’s life.)

# I. The Setting: Suffering sometimes hits when we haven’t done anything wrong (Job 1–2).

MP

[We haven’t deserved it, but at times pain comes nonetheless.]

## The setting regarding God's sovereignty over righteous suffering was where Job, unaware of Satan’s plot, innocently suffered great losses (Job 1–2).

Job 1

### Scene 1 (Uz): God blessed Job's character of righteousness with great possessions to show his sovereign blessing on his life (1:1-5).

Job   
1:1-5

### Satan assaulted Job twice but he remained true to God as background for his friends' accusations against his character (1:6–2:10).

Chess

#### Satan's first assault against Job under God's sovereign limitations takes all his possessions and children, but Job responds righteously (1:6-22).

##### Scene 2 (Heaven): Satan’s limitations are contrasted with God’s sovereignty as he tests Job, as Satan attributes his righteousness to material blessing (1:6-12).

Satan

##### Scene 3 (Uz): Satan responds to God's permission by taking all of Job's possessions and children, but is rebuked by Job's righteous response (1:13-22).

Chart

#### Satan's second assault against Job under God's sovereign limitations takes his health, but again Job responds righteously (2:1-10).

Job 2

##### Scene 4 (Heaven): Satan attributes Job's righteous response to God's gift of health, so God lets Satan test Job to contrast Satan's limits with God's sovereignty (2:1-6).

Outline

Wife

##### Scene 5 (Uz): Satan responds to God's permission by hurting Job with sores and a merciless wife, yet Job again responds righteously (2:7-10).

Suicide

### Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite, sat in silence with Job for a week in the custom of the day so Job could first express his grief (2:11-13).

Friends

## Maybe you also are living right but experiencing pain.

Cave

### Many times suffering comes from sin (break the law, hurt people you love).

### But perhaps you have done nothing to deserve your suffering (living for others, loving God and people).

(What is our typical response to righteous suffering?)

# II. The Debate: We struggle with righteous suffering until God shares his incomprehensibility (Job 3–41).

MP

Subject

(3 slides)

[Wrestling with the reason for pain is natural until God says he won’t tell.]

## God shut down debate by saying that this reason for righteous suffering shouldn’t be asked due to his incomprehensibility and sovereignty (Job 3–41).

Job 3

### Job and his three friends debated in three cycles the reason for his suffering, each time getting more heated and specific, but not knowing why he suffered (Job 3–26).

Debate

(11 slides)

#### Debate 1: Job's friends subtly advised him to repent, but Job despaired of life and asked God for vindication, as he found no reason for his suffering (Job 3–14).

#### Debate 2: General proposals of Job's sin become specific, vicious insinuations that Job is wicked yet he trusts God to defend him as righteous (Job 15–21).

#### Debate 3: Job's friends even more openly accuse him of specific sins that they believe caused his troubles but Job finds no reason for his suffering (Job 22–26).

### Job replied that all three friends’ simple arguments about suffering always resulting from sin were unfounded (Job 27–31).

#### Job's first monologue shows that God assures the ultimate destruction of the wicked but God alone has the wisdom to know the reason for his suffering (Job 27–28).

#### Job's second monologue describes his past prosperity, present misery and innocence as a final appeal before God and man (Job 29–31).

Job 32

(5 slides)

Job 38

(4 slides)

### Elihu angrily rebuked Job and his friends saying that God need not reveal the purpose for Job's suffering although He is speaking to Job through his pain (Job 32–37).

### The LORD tested Job with unanswerable questions to affirm His incomprehensibility, sovereignty, and omnipotence (Job 38–41).

#### The LORD's first speech asks numerous questions about nature which Job admits he cannot answer, to prove His incomprehensibility and sovereignty (38:1–40:5).

Job 40

(8 slides)

#### The LORD's second speech to Job questions whether he is stronger than two dinosaurs to prove His omnipotence and sovereignty (40:6-41:34).

Job 41

(4 slides)

## God probably will not reveal why you are suffering—so rest in your ignorance.

God Answer?

### Too often we think that God owes us a reason. He doesn’t owe us anything!

### Even if he did tell the reason, we would still struggle with his justice due to our sin.

Transition

(3 slides)

(What is the proper response to righteous suffering?)

# III. The Resolution: Our proper response is to submit to God (Job 42).

MP

[We should surrender to the LORD rather than fight him.]

## The proper response to righteous suffering was Job’s submission to God rather than questioning his incomprehensibility and sovereignty (Job 42).

Job 42

### Job submitted to God's incomprehensibility and sovereignty and prayed for his friends, showing God's pleasure with Job but displeasure at the friends' accusations (42:1-9).

Family

### God blessed Job's obedience with long life, doubling his former wealth, giving him more children and restoring his health, blessing the latter part of his life more than the first (42:10-17).

Job 1 & 42

## Don’t strive to know reasons—long to know God instead!

Green

### Our problem is not lack of knowledge but lack of submission.

### Only after surrendering to God can we experience his blessings.

Subject

(What is the proper response to righteous suffering?)

# Conclusion

### Submit to God’s incomprehensibility rather than try to figure suffering out (MI).

MI

### Main Points

MPI

#### The Setting: Suffering sometimes hits when we haven’t done anything wrong (Job 1–2).

MPII

#### The Debate: We struggle with righteous suffering until God shares his incomprehensibility (Job 3–41).

MPIII

#### The Resolution: Our proper response is to submit to God (Job 42).

### The key word for Job is incomprehensibility.

Key Word

### Exhortation: What issue are you going through now?

Application

#### Is your pain really righteous suffering?

##### If you need to repent, please go ahead.

##### If you don’t need to repent, don’t pretend you do.

#### How are you trying to figure your suffering out?

• 1

##### “If only I knew…” assumes that if you knew right, you would act right.

##### Are you finding the advice of friends about as helpful as the counsel of Job’s friends?

#### How can you submit to God by trusting in God’s wisdom?

• 2

##### Don’t try to force God to tell you the things he will not tell.

###### “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law” (Deut 29:29 NIV).

• Deut 29:29

###### “The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions” (Deut 29:29 NLT).

Prayer

• NLT

##### “Be still [“cease striving” NASB], and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth” (Ps 46:10 NIV).

Ps 46:10

### Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Main Ideas

Text

# Illustrations That Apply

### Text

# Old Testament Survey Notes

**Be Submissive**

***Job***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The proper response to righteous suffering is submission to God rather than questioning his incomprehensibility and sovereignty.

# The setting regarding God's sovereignty over righteous suffering was where Job, unaware of Satan’s plot, innocently suffered great losses (Job 1–2).

## God blessed Job's character of righteousness with great possessions to show his sovereign blessing on his life (1:1-5).

## Satan assaulted Job twice but he remained true to God as background for his friends' accusations against his character (1:6–2:10).

## Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite, sat in silence with Job for a week according to the custom of the day, allowing Job to be first to express his grief (2:11-13).

# The answer to discussion of the reason for Job’s suffering was for God to say that this question should not be asked due to his incomprehensibility and sovereignty (Job 3–41).

## Job and his three friends debated in three cycles the reason for his suffering, each time getting more heated and specific, but not finding the reason for Job's suffering (Job 3–26).

## Job replied that all three friends’ simple arguments about suffering always resulting from sin were unfounded (Job 27–31).

## Elihu angrily denounced the others’ inadequate advice and rebuked Job that God need not reveal the purpose for Job's suffering although He is speaking to Job through his pain (Job 32–37).

## The LORD tested Job with unanswerable questions to affirm His incomprehensibility, sovereignty, and omnipotence (Job 38–41).

# The proper response to righteous suffering was Job’s submission to God rather than questioning his incomprehensibility and sovereignty (Job 42).

## Job submitted to God's incomprehensibility and sovereignty and prayed for his friends, showing God's pleasure with Job but displeasure at the friends' accusations (42:1-9).

## God blessed Job's obedience with long life, doubling his former wealth, giving him more children and restoring his health, blessing the latter part of his life more than the first (42:10-17).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will submit to God’s incomprehensibility when suffering for righteousness.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: The book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* raises the issue that righteous suffering occurs and we don’t know how to respond.

### Need: Think about how pain may hit you despite your innocence.

#### What righteous suffering have you experienced in the past?

#### What issue are you going through now though it is undeserved?

### Subject: What is the proper response to righteous suffering?

### Background: In Job’s day the common belief was that suffering was always caused by sin but godliness that led to blessing. Therefore, the right response to suffering was simply to repent from sin. But is that the proper response to righteous suffering?

### Preview: Today we’ll see three steps to answer this question: the setting, the debate and the resolution to this problem of righteous suffering.

### Text: The entire book of Job is our text.

(What is the proper response to righteous suffering? Before we answer this question, let’s first see how difficulties came through no fault of his in Job’s life.)

# I. The Setting: Suffering sometimes hits when we haven’t done anything wrong (Job 1–2).

## The setting regarding God's sovereignty over righteous suffering was where Job, unaware of Satan’s plot, innocently suffered great losses (Job 1–2).

### God blessed Job's character of righteousness with great possessions to show his sovereign blessing on his life (1:1-5).

### Satan assaulted Job twice but he remained true to God as background for his friends' accusations against his character (1:6–2:10).

### Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite, sat in silence with Job for a week in the custom of the day so Job could first express his grief (2:11-13).

## Maybe you also are living right but experiencing pain.

### Many times suffering comes from sin (examples).

### But perhaps you have done nothing to deserve your suffering (examples).

(What is our typical response to righteous suffering?)

# II. The Debate: We struggle with righteous suffering until God shares his incomprehensibility (Job 3–41).

## God shut down debate by saying that this reason for righteous suffering shouldn’t be asked due to his incomprehensibility and sovereignty (Job 3–41).

### Job and his three friends debated the reason for his suffering, each time getting more heated and specific, but not finding the reason for Job's suffering (Job 3–26).

### Job replied that all three friends’ simple arguments about suffering always resulting from sin were unfounded (Job 27–31).

### Elihu angrily rebuked Job and his friends saying that God need not reveal the purpose for Job's suffering although He is speaking to Job through his pain (Job 32–37).

### The LORD tested Job with unanswerable questions to affirm His incomprehensibility, sovereignty, and omnipotence (Job 38–41).

## God probably will not reveal why you are righteous suffering—so rest in your ignorance.

### Too often we think that God owes us a reason. He doesn’t owe us anything!

### Even if he did tell the reason, we would still struggle with his justice due to our sin.

(What is the proper response to righteous suffering?)

# III. The Resolution: Our proper response is to submit to God (Job 42).

## The proper response to righteous suffering was Job’s submission to God rather than questioning his incomprehensibility and sovereignty (Job 42).

### Job and his three friends debated in three cycles the reason for his suffering, each time getting more heated and specific, but not knowing why he suffered (Job 3–26).

### God blessed Job's obedience with long life, doubling his former wealth, giving him more children and restoring his health, blessing the latter part of his life more than the first (42:10-17).

## Don’t strive to know reasons—long to know God instead!

### Our problem is not lack of knowledge but lack of submission.

### Only after surrendering to God can we experience his blessings.

(What is the proper response to righteous suffering?)

# Conclusion

### Submit to God’s incomprehensibility rather than try to figure suffering out (MI).

### Main Points

#### The Setting: Suffering sometimes hits when we haven’t done anything wrong (Job 1–2).

#### The Debate: We struggle with righteous suffering until God shares his incomprehensibility (Job 3–41).

#### The Resolution: Our proper response is to submit to God (Job 42).

### Exhortation: What issue are you going through now?

#### Is your pain really righteous suffering?

##### If you need to repent, please go ahead.

##### If you don’t need to repent, don’t pretend you do.

#### How are you trying to figure your suffering out?

##### “If only I knew…” assumes that if you knew right, you would act right.

##### Are you finding the advice of friends about as helpful as the counsel of Job’s friends?

#### How can you submit to God by trusting in God’s wisdom?

##### Don’t try to force God to tell you the things he will not tell.

###### “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law” (Deut 29:29 NIV).

###### “The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions” (Deut 29:29 NLT).

##### “Be still [“cease striving” NASB], and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth” (Ps 46:10 NIV).

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

6 May 2018

Message 18 of 66

**Be Submissive**

***Job***

# Introduction

### *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* raises the issue of righteous suffering.

### What is the proper response to righteous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

# I. The Setting: Suffering sometimes hits when we haven’t done anything \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Job 1–2).

## The setting regarding God's sovereignty over righteous suffering was where Job, unaware of Satan’s plot, innocently suffered great losses (Job 1–2).

## Maybe you also are living right but experiencing pain.

# II. The Debate: We struggle with righteous suffering until God shares his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Job 3–41).

## God shut down debate by saying that this reason for righteous suffering shouldn’t be asked due to his incomprehensibility and sovereignty (Job 3–41).

### Job and his three friends debated in three cycles the reason for his suffering, each time getting more heated and specific, but not knowing why he suffered (Job 3–26).

### Job replied that all three friends’ simple arguments about suffering always resulting from sin were unfounded (Job 27–31).

### Elihu angrily rebuked Job and his friends saying that God need not reveal the purpose for Job's suffering although He is speaking to Job through his pain (Job 32–37).

### The LORD tested Job with unanswerable questions to affirm His incomprehensibility, sovereignty, and omnipotence (Job 38–41).

## God probably will not reveal why you are suffering—so rest in your ignorance.

# III. The Resolution: Our proper response is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God (Job 42).

## The proper response to righteous suffering was Job’s submission to God rather than questioning his incomprehensibility and sovereignty (Job 42).

## Don’t strive to know reasons—long to know God instead!

# Conclusion

### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God’s incomprehensibility rather than try to figure suffering out (Main Idea).

### How are you trying to figure out your suffering? How can you submit to God by trusting in God’s wisdom?

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Listen to this message online at cicfamily.com/sermon-listing/

**Job**

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| **God’s Incomprehensibility Explains Righteous Suffering** | | | | | | | | |
| **Righteous Suffering** | | | **Unsuccessful Dialogue** | | | | **Restoration** | |
| **Chapters 1–2** | | | **Chapters 3–41** | | | | **Chapter 42** | |
| **Dilemma** | | | **Debate** | | | | **Deliverance** | |
| **Ruin** | | | **Reasons** | | | | **Repentance** | |
| **Prose** | | | **Poetry** | | | | **Prose** | |
| **Heaven and Earth** | | | **Land of Uz**  **(North Arabia)** | | | | **Heaven and Earth** | |
| Job’s Character  1:1-5 | Satan’s Assaults  1:6–2:10 | Job’s Friends  2:11-13 | Cycles  3–26 | Job  27–31 | Elihu  32–37 | God  38–41 | Obedience  42:1-9 | Blessings  42:10-17 | |
| **Patriarchal Times (c. 2000 BC)** | | | | | | | | | |

**Key Word: Incomprehensibility**

**Key Verse: (Elihu speaking) “The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress. Therefore, men revere him, for does he not have regard for all the wise in heart?” (Job 37:23-24)**

**Summary Statement:**

**The proper response to righteous suffering is submission to God rather than questioning his incomprehensibility and sovereignty.**

**Applications:**

**During righteous suffering we should not question the reason for our plight.**

**During righteous suffering we should submit to God by trusting in God’s wisdom.**