

Job 29:1-17- The Three Most Important Things in Your Life

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **What would you miss the most if you knew you were going to die this year?** This question is important to answer as it affects how you live your life now! This is what you will hear about today.

Our goals are: That as blood bought children of Jesus **you will consider the things that truly matter to him and put your mind, abilities, and money to pursue them!**

Our headings are:

Job and his Faith

Job and his Family

Job and his Friends

Job and his Faith

1 Job further continued his discourse, and said: 2 Oh, **that I were as in months past**, As in the days when **God watched over me**; 3 When **His lamp shone upon my head**, And when by His light I walked through darkness; 4 Just as **I was in the days of my prime**, When the **friendly counsel of God was over my tent**;

1. Job reflected on his life and expressed a desire to have what he had in the past.

2. What specific things in the past did Job desire? Faith!!!

a. Job wanted to feel God's protection over his temporal and spiritual matters again! God promised this.

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

b. Job wanted God's light to shine on him to guide him through the darkness of this world. He knew that God's Word was a lamp and a light to him.

Psalm 25:14 The secret of the LORD *is* with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

c. Job desired to bear fruit for God again. This is what the phrase "**days of my prime**" suggests.

He wanted to be like a fruit tree with ripe fruits...fruits for God and man.

Faith always results in fruits.

d. Job wanted God to be near, as if God were his neighbor.

If fact, there is a historical account that **Job had a church that met at his house.**

He understood covenant blessings and covenant unity.

3. Job's troubles made him feel far from God; he felt lonely and afflicted.

But was God far from him?

No. **Election is forever.**

When God elects and adopts, he never abandons.

The **covenant is unchangeable.**

God is never far from his children.

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

But Job knew that his present state did not allow him to be a minister to his family or to his friends.

His wealth to help the poor was gone.

His children were not there so he could teach them.

He could not administer justice on account of his poor physical condition.

His close friends thought that he was estranged from.

But what a desire!

He could have **wished for his animals** and **his children**, his **position** and his **power**, but the first thing he **wished was to be near to God.**

He wanted the light of God's grace to shine on him.

This is what gave meaning to his life. This is what made him walk with joy and in comfort.

4. Lessons:

a. Job did not desire an I-phone 14 or a Toyota Camry. He wanted to be close to God. **What do you desire most? Do you desire above all else to be close to God and that his light guides you?**

b. Do you long to be in the house of God and get these blessings? Isn't this God's greatest blessing? Isn't it here where you are instructed in truth and isn't this the truth the Holy Spirit uses to strengthen your faith? Receive his benediction.

Numbers 6:25 The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

Job and his Family

5 When the Almighty was yet with me, **When my children** were around me; 6 When my steps were **bathed with cream**, And the rock poured out rivers of **oil for me!**

1. Job desired to have his family together – and not just at Advent and Thanksgiving!

He wanted to have his children and their families with him...serving the Lord.

His children were grown, **but he wanted to maintain that unity of the faith.**

He knew the importance of the **continuation of a godly line** and he invested the time in it.

Job wasn't focused on personal joys from wealth.

He did not long to become famous.

He did not care if his children were rich or famous. He wanted to be around them. This is what mattered in his life. **He wanted to make sure they were following God's way** and working to establish God's kingdom on the earth.

Notice how he wanted butter and oil, rather than gold and silver.

This was not a lust for food. He wanted things he could use and share (or else they would go bad) not things he could hoard.

2. Did Job really show that he was interested in his family?

Look at Job 1. He prayed for them, just in case they sinned. What a caring father!

Job 1:4 And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." **Thus Job did regularly.**

3. Lessons:

a. What is one of the most common things you hear at a funeral in our Christian circle when a man dies? "He was a great provider." But the question is this: "What has he provided for his children?"

Here is what he should be doing!

Psalms 128:3 Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like **olive plants All around your table.**

The Psalmist wasn't simply saying have as many children as you like. He wanted a fully Reformed home.

b. If you can't say this like Job – if you have not been close to your family, go home and start working on being a blessing to your family.

Be kinder to your wife.

Be a less totalitarian husband.

Work harder with your children and for your children.

If you have put more emphasis on being a "good provider," consider if you have provided things that matter.

Your wife and your children belong to Christ. He is your Redeemer. And you should desire to do what your Ransom-er demands of you!

Job and his Friends

7 "When I went out to the gate by the city, when I took my seat in the open square, 8 The **young men saw me and hid**, And the **aged arose and stood**; 9 The **princes refrained from talking**, And put their hand on their mouth; 10 The voice of **nobles was hushed**, And their **tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth**. 11 When the ear heard, then it **blessed me**, And when the eye saw, then it **approved me**;

1. Job desired to serve many of his friends in civil court by sharing God's wisdom and making sound judgments.

What a true public servant! Henry wrote: *We are not born for ourselves. We are born for the public.*

a. Job's judgments were so sound, so fair, that the old, the young, and the important listened and accepted them.

Do you realize how difficult it is to gain the approval of both old and young?

The old often think that you are too loose and the young not loose enough. But the old and young were like quiet when Job spoke, like the baby upon the breast or the bee upon the flower.

He did not coddle them. Remember how he **spoke to his wife**: "You speak like a foolish woman." (And yet, he didn't call her a fool. He called her action "foolish.")

b. As a result of Job's sound judgment, the people blessed him – honored him!

12 Because I delivered the **poor** who cried out, The **fatherless** and the one who had no helper. 13 The blessing of a **perishing man came** upon me, And I caused the **widow's heart** to sing for joy. 14 I **put on**

righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban. 15 I was **eyes to the blind**, And I was **feet to the lame**. 16 I was a father to the poor, And I **searched out the case that I did not know**. 17 I **broke the fangs** of the wicked, And **plucked the victim from his teeth**.

2. Look at the details: Job desired to serve the widow, orphan, and the foreigner.

Job “righted those who were slighted.”

a. Job helped to provide food and cared for the needs of the fatherless, the dying, the widows, the blind, and the lame, so much so, that then they were about to die, they praised him.

The son of a prince was a true father to the poor.

b. Job helped to secure justice for the oppressed and abused. He did not let the rich abuse the poor. He did not condone the poor robbing the rich.

Surely this work brought him much fulfillment. He did what God called him to do!

And it is only normal that Job would do what his Savior would do.

Psalm 72:12 For He will deliver the needy when he cries, The poor also, and him who has no helper.

3. And notice that Job highlighted that his righteousness was from the outside.

The righteousness was from the Lord, not from himself. He followed God’s righteous system.

Christ’s righteousness was the beautiful clothing you see on the priests who served the Lord in the Old Testament ceremonial system, and this is the clothing you **see the redeemed of God have in Revelation**. Job had this too!

Psalm 45:13 The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold. 14 She shall be brought to the King in **robes of many colors**; The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.

4. Lessons:

a. What will young people in this church say when they look back at your life? Will they say:

you were **always complaining about everything**,

you were always **reluctant to do any outreach activities**,

you had **roast pastor after every Sunday service**,

you **refused to be involved in the affairs of the country**,

you **could not be bothered to speak up for children** who are daily being killed by abortions,

you **had no time from May to September because those days were all about you**,

you **complained from the time the electricity went out** till it returned?

Or will young people say:

He always **gave me good advice**.

He always **had time to talk**.

He **encouraged me when I was struggling in my faith**.

He **rebuked me when I said something wrong**.

b. One of the biggest condemnation a man can get today is that he is “judging.”

But Christians are to judge and to speak of God’s condemnation. Every parent, every person, every elder, every policeman has to make judgment. Don’t confuse what Jesus said in Matthew 7. **He was condemning judgment for small matters, not big**. He commands you to make judgment.

Conclusion:

Job’s faith was precious to him. He longed to be **close to God** and **he wanted God to guide of his home**.

Job’s family was dear to him. He wanted to be around his family to be a blessing to them and fulfill the creation mandate.

Job loved his friends through Jesus Christ and he labored for them and pursue justice for them.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. As a child of God, clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, reflect on your actions regarding your faith, family, and friends and see how well you have fared.

2. Where you have been successful, praise God for it. Continue doing it.

Where you have failed – and strayed in your faith, or ignored your family, or have been indifferent to your friends’ needs, repent. Ask God for the grace to be selfless and caring about your moral duties and to pursue them with diligence. This is the way to live!

3. And remember, when your faith is strong, it is easier to fulfill your duties to your family and friends! Pursue faith. Finally, it is useless to merely live a good life because your good acts are no good. **God only accepts the goodness of Christ on your behalf.** Christ lived for the world and died for the world. May you plead with God the Father to accept Christ’s good work on your behalf. Then you can begin to be good in your own life.

