

Job 42:1-6  
Feilding Baptist  
3.10.21

[Call to Worship](#)

Greeting, Reading & Prayer

1 John 1:9

New International Version - UK

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

We're looking at Job, and we can't say Job was unrighteous. He stayed blameless and upright! Remarkable! But for us, we do need to talk to God, to confess our sin, to experience forgiveness. While we can do that anytime, it's great to have communion today, to be grateful for what Jesus has done for us, for what Jesus offers us, and to have the opportunity to.

Father God, thank you for this time to be together, on site, and on line. Thank you for your presence with us this week. Thank you for the little coincidences this week, that could only have been you. Holy Spirit, please bless this time, as we give thanks for Jesus. Amen.

[Message - Both Wheels Turning](#)

When rough stuff happens in life, things we don't understand, will we consider the omniscience and omnipotence of God and submit to the Almighty?

We come to Job, this Old Testament book. And we might think, bah, Old Testament, why do we bother? But this very old book, perhaps the oldest in the Bible, has some foundations about God, and our relationship with God, that are very important.

Experts regard Job as:

the greatest thing ever written with pen - Thomas Carlyle

The crown jewel of biblical literature - Samuel Balentine

The words of Job are those of a great poet - Lamartine (? a great French poet)

Let's not take this book for granted, simply because it's in the Old Testament. While we roughly know the story, we should always wonder, what is it that God is helping us know through this story? Job has it all, he suffers, but stays faithful and is blessed in his later years. What's is this about?

Well, let's see.

One of my best men lives in Hamilton. He had a significant birthday coming up, the sort that Vicki, Catherine, Laretta have had. He was pondering what he would do? What significant thing he could do to mark this milestone, to make it special? Couldn't go to Rarotonga. Couldn't go to Sydney for the night.

His oldest daughter had been away for the weekend. She's into long distance swimming, so it might have been to do with that? Last Sunday she swam around Mt Maunganui, in the ocean. With a group. Anyway, Clark had to go and pick her up, from a bach near Te Puke, nearer Papamoa. Right on the beach. The verandah is on the sand dunes. The view of the waves only a few metres away, an island, the clouds, all so close, warmed his heart. And he thought, this is where I want to wake up on my 50<sup>th</sup>. And he did.

Which inspired me for my much lesser celebration this week.

We come to the last chapter of Job, will your heart too be warmed?

Here we have Job, responding with a last few words, to not his friends this time, but God! And it's quite remarkable after all that has gone on, where Job's thinking has come to. For he was very much asking earlier, did I really deserve all of this?

And we might have a picture from here of a God that is uncaring. But stepping back can help, as we look at the rest of the Bible, as we remember what we know of the character of God.

Take creation, the first chapter of the Bible, Genesis 1. At each stage of creation God says, it was good. But when it came to humans, God says that this aspect of creation was very good. God's heart is warmed by creation, especially by humanity. That God has created us and only us in the image of God is surely part of the reason for this special bond.

Then we can jump forward to Jesus. God would never have sent Jesus if He didn't care about humanity. The single biggest act of love the world has ever seen saw Jesus die on the cross for us.

So we can't say that God loses interest in us, individually or together.

Oh, so what about Job? Did God cause any of the evil to come on Job, losing property, family, health? No, it was Satan, the accuser. Satan couldn't accept that people would worship God on their own free will. Job proves that we can, and do.

So what does God look to us to do? That's what today's verses point to.

Let's read

Job 42:1-6 (NIV - UK)

### Job

1 Then Job replied to the Lord:

2 'I know that you can do all things;  
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

3 You asked, "Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?"  
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,  
things too wonderful for me to know.

4 'You said, "Listen now, and I will speak;  
I will question you,  
and you shall answer me."

5 My ears had heard of you  
but now my eyes have seen you.

6 Therefore I despise myself  
and repent in dust and ashes.'

v1-2 God's omnipotence

Well, I have to say I was a little surprised to get here to find Job speaking to God rationally. I thought there would be bitterness and rage. But what have we got? We have recognition of who we are, and who God is. There is certainly humility here from Job.

And there's also an acceptance that God is king, and we are not! This is why God doesn't always sort stuff for us. That would make God our servant. God is capable, but doesn't always use that power. That word omnipotence, all powerful. That is God. Job recognises here, that he is not, that he is limited.

We don't always understand, as Job didn't why things are happening to us. Is this how we are to respond, with humility and trust?

Despite all that he's lost, Job still reveres God. Perhaps more importantly, Job recognises his place before God.

### v3 God's omniscience

This line of thinking flows into verse three, with God's omniscience added to omnipotence. Omnipotence, all powerful, and omniscience, all knowing. God has asked, who speaks without knowledge? And Job realises that he's shot his mouth off, and been caught doing it.

It's not that we can't get angry. I heard yesterday of a group that brainstormed how we feel about God? Someone said angry. And for good reason. But the facilitator didn't want to go there.

When you look at the Psalms, when you look at Lamentations, our feelings are not to be boxed up, but expressed to God. We might shoot our mouths off, and say things we don't understand. But all but one of the Psalms ends up turning around and praising God. As does verse three here.

After Job's rant, even he says, oh, I didn't really know what I was saying. I don't know everything.

If there was humility in Job's response in the second verse, here is trust.

### v4-6 Freewill Submission

Which leads us into verse six and what I wrote in the newsletter. Job repents.

This bothers some people, for Job has done nothing wrong. But I think we miss the point on two counts if we think this. Sure to repent is about turning around, a new direction, forgiveness after apology. But, the Hebrew word in v6, that appears in 133 other places in the Old Testament, is translated as comfort, consoling, ... as well as to repent.

That got me thinking. If we comfort or console someone, we make a decision to do so. We have to decide to do it. Repentance is the same, it is about making a decision. And that's what Job is doing here, making a fresh, confident decision to be with God, to submit to God.

Two things, the freewill decision, and the submission.

I hope you noticed the title for this message? Both wheels turning. We have in verse two and three Job getting his head together, and responding to God. We need to as well, think things through, ask questions, find the answers we need.

But coming to terms with Jesus, following Jesus is not just about our head decision, it's also about our heart. And this is where verse six fits in, Job's heart is submissive, he repents, in dust and ashes. But something has happened earlier, something has warmed his heart. Something about God has excited him. And lead him to acceptance.

Head and heart, front wheel and back wheel, turning freely together.

And that's the challenge for us, when rough stuff happens in life, things we don't understand. Will we recognise who we are, and who God is? God, all knowing, all powerful. Will we in those times, hold onto God, even though things don't make sense.

A Rabbi (Bunam) from 19<sup>th</sup> Century suggested that we carry two stones in our pockets. On one should be written, not I will sit in dust and ashes, but 'I am but dust and ashes.' On the other stone should be written, 'For my sake the world was created.' And in the different trials of life, we should whichever stone that fits (Ballentine, 698).

Pray

Let's pray

Father God, Thank you for this model of a humble faithful servant that we have in Job. We know that we will suffer, we don't know how, we don't know when, we don't know how much. Lord we want to be faithful in the good times and the bad. We want to stay humble before you as mere dust and ashes. We want to follow you in response to what you have already done for us. You are a great God and most worthy of praise. Thank you for being our God, thank you for sending Jesus, thank you for listening to us, thank you for the assurance here in Job that in the struggle, you can be found. Amen.

Listen - Face Down - Matt Redman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FTYmgnRyDA>

### *Benediction*

Go with confidence into the days ahead,  
trusting in God's unfailing love and faithfulness.

God will not abandon you,  
for you are the work of His hands—His own creation—  
and His love endures forever.

So go in joy to love and serve the Lord!