Job’s Paradoxical Faith

Under Satan’s attacks, Job lost his children, his wealth, his health, his honor, and his desire to live. If this were the whole story, it would not be unusual. Many people have suffered the loss of everything. Job’s story is so compelling because of his paradoxical attitude toward God. On the one hand, Job blames God for his troubles. On the other hand, he continues to trust in God. He is overwhelmed with despair, yet he is confident that he will be vindicated. We meet these contrasts repeatedly throughout the book.

**1. Job feels the *hostility* of God**

A. God treats Job as an *enemy*

Job 13:23-28; 19:7-11

B. God overwhelms Job with His *power*

Job 9:1-10, 17-19

C. God ignores Job’s *righteousness*

Job 9:20-23; 31:1-40

D. God refuses to show *Himself*

Job 23:1-9

**2. Job fixes his *hope* on God**

A. Job needs a divine/human *mediator*

Job 9:32-35; 1 Timothy 2:5-6

B. Job expects God to testify *for him*

Job 16:18-21; 17:3

C. Job expects to be *vindicated*

Job 13:15-18; 23:10

D. Job trusts in his *Redeemer*

Job 19:25-27

**Application**

1. Prepare for *pain*

2. Be confident in *Christ*

3. Hold onto your *way*

Job 17:9

4. Expect to be *vindicated*

Job 42:7-9

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. **Job’s losses**

His wealth – 1:13-17

His family – 1:18-19

His health – 2:7-9

His honor – 19:9; 29:7-31:1, 9-11

His desire to live – 3:1-26

What losses have you experienced? Do you see God’s hand in these trials?

3. Job despaired of finding God. Why can you be confident as you boldly approach God’s throne (Hebrews 10:19-22)?

4. Compare Job 23:10 with 1 Peter 1:6-7. What is one purpose of the trials believers endure?