



Sermon, Sunday May 7, 2023 “My Servant Job”

SCRIPTURE: Job 42:1-9 ¹Then Job answered the LORD: ²“I know that you can do all things and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me that I did not know. ⁴‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.’ ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” ⁷After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. ⁸Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering, and my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has done.” ⁹So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the LORD had told them, and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer.

Introduction: Our Attitude to Suffering

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Today's text, the book of Job, reminds me of an experience I had last week. I was in a lot of pain last week due to muscle pain in my neck and shoulders. I've had a slipped disc in my neck in the past, but I didn't know if it had gotten worse or if it was simple muscle pain or some other cause. But what was clear was that I was in pain and needed to know the cause so that I could receive treatment. Fortunately, my wife bought me some medicine to relieve muscle pain, and my pain went away after taking it.

When hardships come into our lives most people think, “Why do I have to go through all these hardships and suffering?” To this question, people say, **“You suffer because you are incompetent, or it simply happens because you are unlucky.”** Others say that it is God's wrath for your wrongdoing that causes you to suffer. However, Job in today's text insists that the suffering he is experiencing is not caused by his own fault, but because of God's will.

Through the book of Job, we can know what it is to live by chasing the essence of faith and what true repentance is that enables us to live by chasing the essence of faith. Through the words of Chapter 42, the final chapter of the Book of Job, I hope that we will live according to the faith of Job, who was called “My servant Job” by the Lord.

Body: My Servant Job

In Chapters 1-2 of the Book of Job in the Old Testament, hardships came to Job, who was evaluated as being blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. God told Satan that there is no one on earth like Job; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. (Book of Job 1:8). However, Satan says that Job fears God because he is a rich man who owns many things and asks God if he can test Job. And Satan's



test of Job completely shook Job's life. Job loses all his possessions, children, and wife, and contracts a very serious disease. Moreover, even the friends who heard the news of Job's hardships condemned and criticized him rather than comforting him.

The Book of Job in the Old Testament has a total of 42 chapters. Among them, only Job chapters 1, 2, and 42 are narratives about Job. In the remaining chapters of the book of Job, there is a theological debate with Job's friends about suffering. In the process of arguing with his friends, Job does not accept their logic that the suffering he experiences is because of sin or is a process of training his faith.

However, this attitude of Job is completely changed in today's text. **Job 42:3 says: "Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge? Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know." Furthermore, 42:6 says, "Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."**

In fact, Job insisted on his righteousness to the end in the process of arguing with his friends. By the way, the above two verses clearly show that Job gave up his claim. Job repents for saying things he did not realize and for saying things that he himself could not understand and could not fathom. And he confesses that his existence is like dust and ash. Job's appearance like this is completely different from when he asserts his righteousness and confidently claims to his friends about the knowledge of God he knows and understands. Then, what made Job repent?

Job 42:5 says: "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you."

Job's confession in this verse shows us what the nature of repentance is. Please think about it. People who have been to church for a long time have a lot of knowledge about God. Those who are interested in church politics are also familiar with church law. Also, those who lead Bible studies in the church have a variety of knowledge about the Bible. However, what we should not overlook here is that just because we know something, our faith does not automatically deepen.

In fact, if we make a little mistake, as Job confessed, there is a high possibility that we will become "those who hide counsel without knowledge," "those who surely spoke of things we did not understand." These are the people who have "heard only with their ear." It is just like Job and his friends who talked about God with all kinds of words and logic, but they did not know God.

However, in today's text, Job confesses, **"I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you."** In this verse, what does Job mean when he says, "my eye sees you"?

In Luke 5:8, Peter, a fisherman, meets Jesus and confesses, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, **"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man."** Also, in Psalm 11:7, David says, **"For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face."**

As described in the verse above, when Peter met Jesus Christ, he discovered the essence of life like dust and ashes in front of the living God and confessed the sin that was nestled deep inside him. True repentance is not something we do on our own, but only when the Lord comes to us and only when we face the Lord. But why do we not experience these essential changes in our life of faith?

It is because we are surrounded by life-destroying forces. The evil forces surrounding us make us anxious and afraid of death. The moment we are afraid of death, the greatest goal of our lives will be to enjoy this life. So we become more obsessed with money, fame, and power. Furthermore, some people live a more legal life because of the fear of God's judgment. All these things are far from enriching our lives. We must be able to move from this life to the seat of an abundant life.

What is needed for that is true repentance. And true repentance begins with facing the Lord and realizing the weakness of our being. As Job confessed, it is to realize that our existence is like dust and ashes. At that



time, our righteousness and pride will disappear from our center. It was because of such realization that Job's dramatic change in his attitude was possible in today's text.

From the beginning of the Book of Job to the end of today's text, the Lord calls Job "My servant Job" and takes his side regarding the argument between Job and his friends. And He grants us the blessing of using Job as a tool of reconciliation for our friends. When Job prayed for his friends who did not do right in God's sight, the Lord said that he would be happy to receive it.

Like this, when we recover the essence of faith, our lives are used as a good tool for the abundance of the community.

Conclusion: Servant of the Lord

Now let's summarize today's message. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! We are those who gain eternal life through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Don't just hear this fact, we must go see it. That is true repentance. And through that repentance, our lives and communities experience greater abundance. Like Job, who was called "My servant Job," I hope that you and I will be acknowledged as servants of the Lord.

