

Message #32

Job 30:1-31

When we are going through trials, it is good to remember the blessings that we have had. But even when we are doing that, it does not make the trials go away. The fact is thinking about past blessings doesn't eliminate present trouble.

That is the way it was for Job. In Job 29, he reflected on the way life had been, "but now" in Job 30 he reflects on the way life is. The "but now" that opens **verse 1** is in sharp contrast to the blessings he described in the previous chapter.

Job was a hurting man. He was mocked by society, he was in pain physically, he was abandoned spiritually and he was hurting emotionally. He could think about all the positive things he once previously experienced, but that did not change the reality of the way life really was. He was a hurting man and this chapter of Job makes that point very clear.

Before we examine the text, let me point out this critical point—this is all an attack from Satan. What we really see here is how powerful Satan is and how low he can take a man. His ultimate objective is to get Job to curse God and he will do whatever he can to try to make that happen.

If you think Satan cannot make your life miserable, take a good look at Job 30. Satan was doing everything he could to destroy Job and his reputation.

WHEN SATAN IS ATTACKING A FAITHFUL BELIEVER, HE WILL CAUSE NEGATIVE THINGS TO HAPPEN SOCIALLY, SPIRITUALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

Now here is the good news. If Satan does attack a child of God and the child of God remains faithful, then the Lord God will vindicate that believer in His time and in His way.

There are four main satanic attacks that he levels against Job:

SATANIC ATTACK #1 – Satan attacked Job in that Job was not respected socially. 30:1-15

If you purpose to do the will of God, you can expect some social ramifications from that. In this case, the worst people from society mocked and ridiculed Job and no one did anything about it.

Now we must keep in mind that at one time Job was honored by the princes and nobles of the land (29:9-10). Even the young people revered and respected Job (29:8). But when Satan got hold of things, his respect was gone.

His name was a mockery. There are two mockery realities that Job discusses that were very real in his life.

Mocking Reality #1 - Job was being mocked by young people who came from worthless families. **30:1-13a**

These Job mockers were younger than him (**30:1a**) and they came from families and fathers who were such low-life's that Job would not even hire them to live with his dogs (**30:1b**).

These were worthless people who were of no value to Job in any way (**30:2**).

In fact they were so worthless that they won't work for food, but claw the ground for it (**30:3**).

They eat plants (**30:4**). They are driven out of every community (**30:5**). They lived in caves like a bunch of vagrants, beggars and Troglodytes (**30:6**), and they gather together and cry out for help like some animal (**30:7**).

These were people who established no name for themselves anywhere. In fact they were scourges of the earth (**30:8**), and these were the fools who were mocking Job (**30:9**).

They hated Job (**30:10a**), they would not associate with him (**30:10b**), they would even spit on him and at him. One of the most degrading things in eastern culture was to spit in a man's face and that is what they did to Job (**30:10c**).

They were not afraid of Job and did any destructive thing they wanted to do against Job (**30:11-13a**). It was a satanic, arrogant gang attack against Job.

I don't know if you have ever been ridiculed by a bunch of worthless punks, but that was the way it was for the most godly man on the face of the earth.

When you are becoming highly esteemed in heaven, you can expect to be demeaned on the earth (Mt. 5:11-12). Satan will use mockery to try and bring you down and turn away from your commitment to God and His Word. This mockery may come from family or friends or it may come from the worst scum in society. But sooner or later, mockery will come. Satan will see to that. In social settings such as school or job, don't be surprised if some do mock you.

Mocking Reality #2 - Job was not being helped by anyone. **30:13b-15**

One terrible tragedy was that no one was lifting a finger to help Job in any way. Wide attacks were coming against Job as if he were fighting a war. Terrors surrounded him and his prosperity was passing away. People watched as Job was mocked and demeaned and no one did anything at all to restrain them.

SATANIC ATTACK #2 – Satan attacked Job in that Job was in pain physically . **30:16-19**

Job was physically hurting. He had pain in his bones that literally kept him awake at night (**30:17**). His whole body felt as if it were being choked out of life (**30:18**). He was physically next to death, like dust and ashes of a dead body (**30:19**).

Martin Luther said there were times when he visited people in a hospital when he concluded the infirmity was satanic. Luther said no matter how skilled the physician, the treatment would not work. He said that he would pray and ask God to lift the power of Satan.

In his Table Talk, he describes the time when he visited a very sick woman who was having some sort of convulsions that lasted for 3 to 4 hours. She was very cold, her tongue was rough and dry and her body would swell. Martin Luther visited her and the woman saw him and said she was greatly burdened that he would pray to God for her. Martin Luther prayed: “God rebuke thee Satan and command thee that thou suffer this his divine creature to be at peace. Lord God, heavenly father, who hast commanded us to pray for the sick, we beseech thee through Jesus Christ thy only beloved Son that thou would deliver this thy servant from her sickness and from the hands of the devil. Spare, O Lord, her soul, which together with her body, thou has purchased and redeemed from the power of sin and death and of the devil.” Luther said when he got done praying that prayer the woman said “Amen.” He said the next day the woman was completely delivered from her disease and sickness (*Luther’s Table Talk*, pp. 292-293).

There are times when Satan is behind a person’s physical infirmity. The problem for Job is that no one was there to help him and pray with him.

SATANIC ATTACK #3 – Satan attacked Job in that Job felt abandoned spiritually.
30:20-26

Job felt as though he had been totally and completely abandoned by God. He felt so all alone. It wasn’t that Job was not praying, it was as if God was not listening. There are ten realities brought out here about the way Job thought and prayed:

(Reality #1) - Job cried to God, but did not get an answer . **30:20a**

(Reality #2) - Job stood up in a reverence of God, but was as if God turned against him.
30:20b

(Reality #3) - Job felt as though God had become cruel in his treatment against Job. **30:21a**

God has sovereignly permitted some cruel things to happen to Job. His cattle stolen, his servants killed, his animals destroyed, his children killed, his health gone, his reputation gone and his friends gone. Those are very cruel things.

(Reality #4) - Job felt as though God were persecuting him. **30:21b**

Isaiah said that when Israel rebelled and grieved the Holy Spirit, God turned Himself into becoming her enemy (Is. 63:10). Job felt that had happened to him.

(Reality #5) - Job felt as if God were moving him up and down in suffering . **30:22**

Job felt like his life was like a violent windstorm. I read an article about surviving in the cold and a man was in a tent in 100 mile per hour violent wind gusts and he got so scared that he vowed he would never sleep in a tent again. Job felt his whole life was a violent wind gust.

(Reality #6) - Job felt as if God was in the process of killing him. **30:23**

Let's face it, it did look like Job was going to die.

(Reality #7) - Job continued to cry out to God for help. **30:24**

(Reality #8) - Job reminded God that he wept for those who had a hard life. **30:25a**

(Reality #9) - Job reminded God that he was grieved over the needy. **30:25b**

(Reality #10) - Job received exactly the opposite of what he expected to receive from God.
30:26

He thought God would honor and bless him for his faithfulness, but instead his life was evil and dark. What Job did not know is that God was going to bless him. Job felt totally abandoned by God.

The goodness of God is a precious doctrine. Waiting on God to do good can give us strength and hope when we are hurting. Job knew about the goodness of God and longed for it.

There is something to see here about Job; he did not quit. There is an old saying, "winners never quit and quitters never win." You are not out if you do not quit. You can always get up and come back. Job did not quit and God would soon bless him at a phenomenal level.

SATANIC ATTACK #4 – Satan caused Job to hurt physically and emotionally. **30:27-31**

The description of life for Job is horrible:

(Description #1) - There was no break from the affliction of Job. **30:27**

Every day for Job was just another day of affliction.

(Description #2) - There was no comfort from the affliction of Job. **30:28a**

No one brought Job any comfort. He didn't have family or friends to rally around him and he thought he didn't even have God as his ally.

(Description #3) - There was no help from anyone in the affliction of Job. **30:28b-29**

Job's life was like an isolated desert dweller. No one liked him and no one helped him.

(Description #4) - There was no help from the physical pain of Job. **30:30**

Practical Lessons

1. If you are truly righteous, you may lose your social status.
2. If you are truly righteous, there may be times when you only have God to lean on.
3. If you are truly righteous, there may be times when even God seems far removed.
4. If you are truly righteous, Satan will eventually flee and God will eventually bless.