

**SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING****SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD****Saturday, 05/21/2022****Scripture: Job****TITLE: Job – Who's the Boss?**

Why do bad things happen to good people? This is a common question today. How would you answer? How do you answer it? Another question we wrestle with is, “why do bad things happen to us if God is loving and all-powerful?”

That adds another layer to an already difficult question. But what if we’re asking the wrong questions? What if there was something far greater to understand?

Well, the book of Job is our source for righteous suffering and that greater question.

The book of Job is believed to be the oldest book of the Bible. It was written somewhere between 2,100 and 1,900 B.C. We don’t know who the author is. Some think it’s Job. Others think it’s Abraham. It is a very intimate, emotional, and helpful book to study. The book of Job can be divided into three parts. Chapters 1-2 focus on the problem of Job. Chapters 3-37 are the debate of Job with his friends and family. And chapters 38-42 show the deliverance of Job. In this book, we spend time with God, Job, Satan, and Job’s friends.

Christ is seen in Job’s acknowledgment of a Redeemer and the need for a Mediator. Jesus fits those descriptions perfectly.

The book of Job is a book we all should read because we all get frustrated with God. We don’t understand our circumstances. We do our best, but life still falls apart. Where is God? Why is He allowing these problems? Has He ever verbally answered you? This is why Job is essential to our faith. Why? Because we don’t need to understand the why. What reason would be good enough for us? I’m convinced there isn’t a satisfactory why. But what we do need to know and cling to is that God loves us, cares for us, and holds onto us even when we let go of Him.

At the end of Job, God doesn’t give Job the answer to “why?” Instead, he gives him something far better: God gives Job evidence of His character, power, authority, and provision.

Job 37:23-24 says,

“The Almighty—we cannot reach him—he is exalted in power! He will not violate justice and abundant righteousness, therefore, men fear him. He does not look favorably on any who are wise in heart.”

And then Job says this in Job 13:15, “Even if he kills me, I will hope in him. I will still defend my ways before him.”

What's the main thing from Job? It's not the why but the who and what that matters. I'll never know why my son had cancer or why my grandmother died so young. You'll likely never know the why to your trials. But we do know that God is trustworthy and will sustain us each step of the way. We do know that we are to learn something through it all.

It's not the why but the who, that's God, and the what, that's the growth we can experience.

So here's my challenge for you today: lean into God and the growth through your trials. I don't pretend to know what you're facing. But I do know that we were not there when God created the universe, raised Jesus from the dead, or have access to His detailed plans for today. But I do know He is in control, can be trusted, and loves you and me dearly.

So today, let's lean into Him and the growth.

When we do, we will win the day.