

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 26

Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12

Mark 10: 2-16

October 4, 2009

Lord, may the words that I speak be the words that you would want spoken. Amen

In the face of hardship, death, disappointments, and unforeseen news that you were not expecting; life can be a living hell. We have all experienced these times and the remembrance of them may still be painful even to this day; but how you reacted to that situation and how it affects you remembering those times again lets you know your depth of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The book of Job is a very interesting story and it is only about 25 pages in length. I encourage you to take the time to read the encounter that Job has with Satan and to help you find it, it is the book in the Old Testament just before the Psalms. The story is another temptation that Satan has with God to see if a person, Job, who is as upright and faithful a person as can be, will break and loose faith in God when everything in his life goes bad.

Remember that Jesus, just after he was baptized by John in the river Jordan, went into the desert for 40 days and was tempted by Satan. Aren't our lives spent in this desert for many years being tempted by Satan? Job's friends tell him to give in, his wife tells him to give it up, and yet through all this Job remains faithful to God. How are we doing with Satan's temptations? The first two chapters of Job mostly explain the story line of what is going on, and then the last chapter explains Gods' reward for Job's faithfulness. The chapters between the beginning and the end are speeches that Job and his friends give, something like a courtroom drama.

The drama of Job's friends and what they say to each other gives you an insight into someone in great torment, but of one that remains faithful. This

is in part our task today; to stay faithful to God and God's wishes for our lives. Until we respond to the wrongs of this world and make things right; we are not carrying out the will of God. To read the Saturday morning Observer and see that David Letterman's ratings went up 38% after his announcement of sexual affairs, we are not carrying out God's will. When we do not look for ways to help the less fortunate in our community, either by cutting the funding to outreach programs, or just not paying attention to peoples' needs, we are not carrying out God's will.

There are many times when faith and works are preached from this pulpit by many different clergy; and the question that I put before you this morning is, "Does your faith measure up to your works?" Do you do the good things in life to help others because it makes you feel good; and that is justifying your place in life to go to heaven and have everlasting life; or are you doing good works because it is the right thing to do and God calls you to do them? Does your faith measure up to your works so that when you are trying your best to help someone and they are not responding to your words; you remain faithful so that with time and your perseverance, they will eventually do what is good and right. Are you dealing with someone that is addicted to substance abuse or someone that is abusive and you feel as if you are not making any improvement in their lives or yours? Do you feel as if God is not on your side and giving you any help in this situation? This is where reading Job and getting the same understanding that he did with God, is so helpful. Job's faith kept him talking to God and being bold with God, knowing that he must not give in to Satan or all will be lost forever. Maybe in your case you need to not only be talking to God about the situation, which is what prayer is all about, talking and listening to God, but maybe you need further help from a friend or the clergy to give you a different perspective of the situation.

As difficult as it may seem, I feel we all need to examine our faith honestly and help correct the wrongs of this world. I do not say that this makes life any easier, but it certainly makes everlasting life attainable.

Amen