1 – **When Our Plans Are Torn Apart**

Job 17:11

2 - **Job’s Life…**

* ***“Blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.”*** (Job 1:1)
* **A father concerned for the spiritual well being of his family**. (Job 1:5)
* **Well blessed**. (Job 1:3)
* **What Job didn’t know… but we do**… (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; cf., Luke 22:31)

3 - **What Were Job’s Plans?**

* **Physically**… **Spiritually**…?
* **They didn’t include the loss of his family, possessions & personal health.**(Job 1:13-19; Job 2:7-9)
* **His spirit had been *“broken”*.** (Job 17:1)
* **No one has suffering in their plans**! (James 4:13)
* **How do we deal with plans that have been torn away from us and a heart that’s been broken**?

4 - **Key Questions/Challenges…**

1. **Why do the righteous suffer** while the wicked seem to prosper? (Psalms 73)
2. **Can God trust man** to serve Him while suffering simply for righteousness sake?
3. **Can man trust God** when his suffering & adversity is “**inexpressible in its intensity** and **unexplainable as to its cause**”? (Matthew 5:10-13; James 1:2-4)
4. **Is all suffering either punitive** or completely **unjustified**?

5 - **What Are The Possible Reasons For Our Adversity or Suffering?**

1. **For the sake of (my) righteousness**. (1 Peter 4:12-19; Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:12)
2. **Because of my sin**. (1 Peter 2:20; 4:15)
3. **Because of the sins of others**. (ie., drunk driver)
4. **Because it’s part of life under the sun** (including “acts of nature”). (Eccl. 3:2-8; Romans 8:20-24)

6 - **How Do Our Choices Impact Suffering?**

**How do we then choose to respond to**…

1. Suffering for **righteousness**? (Will we **endure**? Hebrews 10:36; will we keep **looking to the reward**? Hebrews 12:1-2)
2. Suffering for **our** **sins**? (Will we **repent**? 2 Cor. 7:10-11)
3. Suffering for the **sins of others**? (Will we **trust God**? 1 Peter 2:23; Romans 12:17-21)
4. Suffering because of our **temporal fleshly nature**? (Will we be **content in God’s grace**?   
   (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

7 - **Remember God Uses Those Whose Plans Were Torn Apart**

**Consider:**

* **Abraham**
* **Joseph**
* **Moses**
* **Daniel**
* **Paul**

8 - **Lessons in Dealing With Adversity.**

Case study; **What did Joseph do when he had been betrayed by those who should have supported him?** (Note: Genesis 40:14-15; 50:17-21)

* **Maintained his integrity**. (Genesis 39:9; 42:18)
* **Trusted God**. (Genesis 39:2)
* **Exercised patience**. (Perhaps over 10 years from the time he was sold into slavery until appointed 2nd in command)
* **Left room for the wrath of God**. (Romans 12:16-19)
* **Believed people can change**. (Genesis 42:14-17)

9 - **What About Our Plans?**

1. **We still make plans**. (Proverbs 16:1-3; 2 Thess. 3:11)
   * **Seek godly counsel**. (Proverbs 15:22; 1 Kings 12)
2. **Recognize they’re subject to God**. (James 4:13-17; Psalms 33:10-11; Proverbs 16:1-3)
   * **Be humble -** we don’t have all the answers. (Proverbs 14:12)
3. **Respond to God with commitment**, faith and humility. (Psalms 37:5; 22:8; Luke 1:38)

10 - **Objective…**

**What is the application in our lives?**

1. **Choose to respond by faith and trust to all adversity and suffering.** (1 Peter 4:19; 2 Timothy 1:12)
2. **Come to know God better and draw closer to Him.**(Philippians 3:8-11)
3. **Build up our faith.** (Romans 10:17; Luke 17:5-10; Jude 20; 2 Peter 1:5-10)

11 – **Objective**

1. **Become better encouragers learn to help others who are suffering.** (Hebrews 3:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-14; Galatians 6:1-2)
2. **Stay focused on the outcome.** (1 Peter 1:6-9)
3. **Not to neglect he who is neglected in all this.** (1 Peter 5:6-10)