

# The Patience of Job

(James 5:11)

- Introduction:
1. Two words that I would use to describe Job and the book of Job are suffering and patience, yet the book of Job never once uses the word patience, and only once uses the word suffering. Yet patience and suffering is seen on every page.
  2. It's from the book of James from which we get the expression, "The patience of Job."
  3. The Greek term translated "patience" is a compound word meaning "to abide under." It's the idea of bearing up under a heavy load. In fact, perseverance is used in the NKJV.
  4. Let's examine what this passage says about the patience of Job and the goodness of God.

## I. Introduction to Job

- A. In February of 1942, Albert, Francis, George, Joseph and Madison Sullivan, of Waterloo, Iowa, were all assigned USS Juneau.
  1. Only 9 months later, on November 13, 1942, a Japanese submarine sank the USS Juneau.
  2. Eight days later, 10 survivors were rescued from the shark infested waters, none of which were the Sullivan brothers.
  3. This tragedy caused the U.S. Navy to change their policy about brothers serving together.
- B. I don't know why it is, but when we recall suffering that is closer to our time, it often carries more of an emotional tug than when we share similar events that happened long ago.
- C. Job 1
  1. Oxen, donkeys, servants were taken and killed by the Sabeans.
  2. Sheep and servants were killed by fire from heaven.
  3. Camels and servants were taken and killed by the Chaldeans.
  4. Sons and daughters killed by a great wind.
- D. How hurt would you be? How angry? How disillusioned?
- E. This is the setting for the book of Job and the way that Job reacted and endured is why he is noted as a man of patience.

## II. The Patience Of Job

- A. His first reaction was to worship God (Job 1:20).
  1. Song - Where could I go but to the Lord?
  2. (John 6:68) to whom shall we go...
  3. Not everyone reacts so nobly to suffering and difficulty.

- B. He endured when his family was unwilling.
    - 1. (Job 2:9).
    - 2. How difficult it is to have a spouse who opposes and hinders you.
    - 3. All the more reason for a Christian to marry someone who loves the Lord!
  - C. He endured the clumsiness of his friends.
    - 1. (Job 2:13) Their intentions were good, but they only compounded his problem.
    - 2. Ills. Of Laura Brown and woman who stayed with her when husband died.
    - 3. Ills. Of lady whose husband died - someone said, "I understand."
  - D. He endured what he didn't want to endure.
    - 1. No one would choose what befell Job.
    - 2. Job certainly didn't want it, and in fact, lamented even being born (Job 3).
    - 3. But he endured in view of his relationship with the Lord.
    - 4. Ills. Of Dad asking me not to eat meat. – Enough said, I was just invited to join the ranks of manhood.
    - 5. Given the proper motive, people will endure great hardship and suffering.
  - E. He endured in the midst of his own failure to understand.
    - 1. (Job 42:3) Job admitted that he didn't understand what was going on.
    - 2. But must a failure to understand of all God's workings destroy our faith?
    - 3. Ills. Of Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-4).
    - 4. (Habakkuk1-3).
- Conclusion:
- 1. When life caves in around you, don't ever give up.
  - 2. Be patience, turn to the Scriptures for strength, and trust that God has an end for you that is consistent with his compassion and mercy.