

Title: Keeping Your Eyes on God: Lessons in Humility from Job's Suffering

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the progression of Job's suffering and his gradual shift from trusting God to focusing on his own pain and former greatness. The pastor contrasts Job's response with the Apostle Paul's radical trust in God's sovereignty, even in the face of danger and suffering. The central message emphasizes the danger of "worshiping our pain" by dwelling on our problems rather than on God's character and faithfulness. Through examining Job's journey and comparing it with Psalm 77 (Asaph's psalm), the sermon illustrates how our focus determines whether God becomes bigger than our problems or whether our problems overshadow God. The pastor challenges believers to prepare themselves spiritually for suffering, to practice humility like children, and to trust God's purposes even when circumstances are devastating. The sermon concludes with Jesus's teachings on humility and Peter's instruction to commit ourselves to our faithful Creator while continuing to do good, even in suffering.

Key Points:

- When we worship our problems by constantly thinking and talking about them, they grow bigger and God becomes smaller in our perception
- Job's progression shows him moving from righteous suffering to pride, self-focus, and eventually blaming God
- Asaph's Psalm 77 demonstrates the proper response: acknowledging pain but deliberately shifting focus to God's character and mighty deeds
- Paul exemplified the mindset of a "dead man walking" who had nothing to lose and everything to gain by boldly proclaiming Christ
- Christians should anticipate and prepare for suffering rather than presuming life will always improve
- True wisdom comes from fearing the Lord, and understanding comes from shunning evil
- We must wear God's armor (His righteousness, not our own) when facing spiritual battles
- Humility is essential for entering the kingdom of heaven; we must become

like children and humble ourselves to receive God's grace

- God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble
- Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue doing good

Scripture Reference:

- Job 27:21-23; 28:1-28; 29:1-25; 30:1
- Psalm 77:1-20
- Matthew 18:1-4
- Matthew 23:8-12
- James 4 (God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble)
- 1 Peter 4:18-19 (suffering according to God's will)
- Ephesians 6 (the full armor of God)
- Psalm 22

Stories:

- The pastor's personal testimony of hitting a deer on his motorcycle and God's prompting to "thank me" despite his initial focus on the damage and inconvenience
- The story of Job's children being killed by a wind/tornado that collapsed their house
- Illustration of raccoons drowning hunting dogs by pulling them underwater, compared to how the devil tries to overwhelm us with our problems
- The pastor meeting Tommy and Lindsay at a motorcycle shop after the deer accident, eventually performing their wedding, demonstrating how God brings good from difficult circumstances
- Reference to coon hunting and how raccoons would fight dogs near water to gain advantage
- Illustration of sports players losing focus on the ball and missing catches or hits when they look away too soon
- The pastor's childhood memory of staring at Brussels sprouts that never got better by focusing on them