

"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord"

Job 1:21 - Summer Link, August 19, 2015

How often do we PRAISE God in the following situations? Often (O) / Sometimes (S) / Never (N)

- His faithful provision - *'it's not that I deserve it, but once again He's supplied... O / S / N*
- His powerful deliverance - *'it's clearly thanks to the Lord that I'm no longer in trouble' O / S / N*
- His kind overruling - *'it wasn't my plan but things seem to have worked out for the best' O / S / N*
- His mysterious intervention - *'it just doesn't make sense; all I can feel is pain and loss' O / S / N*

How is it possible to keep PRAISING the LORD in the midst of suffering?

DISCUSS...

- What kind of person was Job? (1:1-5)
- What had just happened in his life? (1:13-19)
- How would people in 2015 view what's going on in Job's life?

- consequence of past actions?
- confirmation that God doesn't exist?

1. Grounded on an Enlightened Understanding

- **Understanding of SELF**

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return"

- **Understanding of GOD**

"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord"

How is it possible to keep PRAISING the LORD in the midst of suffering?

2. DEEPENED through the Experience of Suffering

- **Grappling with GOD**

READ Job 38:4-11 / 40:1-5 / 42:1-6

DISCUSS - How does Job's understanding develop?

FURTHER READING...

Big God, by O. Saer

How Long O Lord, by D. Carson

*Walking with God through
Pain and Suffering*, by T. Keller

"God is God. If He is God, He is worthy of my worship and my service. I will find no rest nowhere but in His will, and that will is infinitely, immeasurably, unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what He is up to." *Through the Gates of Splendour*, Elizabeth Elliot

- **Gazing on CHRIST**

Keep Thinking - *How does what we've seen in Job help us to...*

- PRAY for those who are suffering within the church family?
- PREPARE for our own future suffering?
- SPEAK to non Christians about how we view God in the face of suffering?