

## Pastor's Weekly Devotional- October 1, 2015

### "The Problem of Suffering"

When we think of suffering, we think about Job. Here's something to think about:

- Some say: "Money is the most important thing there is." **Job lost his money.**
- Others say: "Love is the greatest of all blessings." **Job lost his children. His wife mocked him. The people of his community turned against him. His comforters tortured him with their words.**
- Still others say: "Nothing is more important than health." **Job lost his health.**

With these staggering losses piled up, Job could have lost his faith. Though Job lost his grip on God, God had not lost His grip on Job.

Job made the customary signs of mourning and uttered his unsurpassed strength of resignation. Properly understood, resignation is an outstanding Christian virtue. Faced with evils which Job does not understand and cannot overcome, he simply resigns. He places the outcome in God's hands.

Job represents you and me. His affliction is a particular disease which represents every sorrow at your workplace, at home, in the community and with your best friends. But the heaviest sorrow is Job's (and ours) alienation from God. Where is God when you need Him the most? Why does heaven seem like brass and your prayers are just hitting the roof?

But don't get discouraged. In **Surrendering to God, you are in!** In **Dying to yourself, you live!** The silence seems so dark and so full of despair. Actually, in your suffering, you are experiencing Compassionate Silence. In your pit, there is a flash of light. God does care when you suffer. Look at the Cross! The Suffering Christ cried out, "My God...why have you forsaken me?" But at the end, He shouted exuberantly: "It is finished."

There is no intellectual explanation for suffering. Be assured, however, that God sees, knows and cares; in the end, some greater good than sorrow will result in your life. So acknowledge with humble acceptance "Thy will be done" and surrender to Him.

Have a blessed week. **This Sunday communion will be served. The sermon will be on "The Dark Side of Love."**

Pastor Sewdin