



PART 1: DOWN FOR THE COUNT

Pastor Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: What do you do when you are struggling to get back up on your feet?

READ: *Job 1:8-22 (ESV)*

FOCUS: In this passage, we see how we can get back up after being knocked down.

OBSERVE:

- **(1:9-11) We can get back up when we realize that God is on our side.**
 - Satan comes to God to afflict Job.
 - While God permits Satan to afflict Job, God limits what Satan can do to Job, showing that God is still ruling over everything, including Satan, sin and the effects of sin.
 - God speaks affectionately about Job.
- **(1:20-22) We can get back up when we determine that God is enough.**
 - Satan's accusation was that Job didn't love God for Who He is but only for the things God gave him. God allows trials and testing to show whether or not we truly do believe that God is enough.
 - In the midst of his tremendous suffering, Job declares that God is enough. Likewise, through suffering, God builds in us a love for Him and trust in Him.
- **We can get back up when we take strength from the stories God gives us.**

- We can be strengthened by the stories of our brothers and sisters in Christ who, in the midst of suffering, have continually trusted in the goodness of God.
- (1:20) We can be strengthened by the story of Job. (James 5:11). Job's response in the midst of suffering was worship. Worship is the reorienting of our lives to Who God is.
- Jesus gives us the final answer to suffering. In Christ, God experienced what we experienced in our suffering. Whereas God did not allow Job's life to be taken, the Father allowed Jesus' life to be taken as the ultimate display of love. Jesus shows us that God can use Satan's worst and use it for good.

REFLECT:

- Have you been loving and worshipping God primarily because of the blessings He has given you? Or have you been loving and worshipping God primarily because of Who He is?
- What are some practical ways that you can continue to worship God in the midst of suffering?

TAKE ACTION:

- Pray for those around you who are suffering and encourage them that God is on their side.
- Intentionally surround yourself with people who can continually help you to love and worship God for God, not just for the "stuff" He gives.

PRAY: *Father, we thank You for all the ways You have blessed us. However, the ultimate blessing is knowing You and being loved by You. Help us to continually trust and worship You even in the midst of suffering. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

