Faith in the midst of Sickness

Job 2:10b

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JOB 1:1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. 2 He had seven sons and three daughters, 3 and he owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen and 500 donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.
JOB 1:13-19
JOB 1:20 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."
JOB 2:4 "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. 5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

JOB 2:6 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."
8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

JOB 2:7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.
JOB 2:9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

JOB 2:10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"
In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.
Faith in the midst of Sickness

Job 2:10b

Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• We are not alone
  – Sense of isolation
  – God knows
    Luke 12:6-7
  – Community of faith
Faith in the midst of Sickness

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Faith in the midst of Sickness

Community of faith

JOB 2:11 When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. 12 When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. 13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• Everybody dies
  – Sickness is part of life
Sickness is part of life

The 10 leading causes of death in the world 2011

- Ischaemic heart disease: 7 million
- Stroke: 6.2 million
- Lower respiratory infections: 3.2 million
- COPD: 3 million
- Diarrhoeal diseases: 1.9 million
- HIV/AIDS: 1.6 million
- Trachea bronchus, lung: 1.5 million
- Diabetes mellitus: 1.4 million
- Road injury: 1.3 million
- Prematurity: 1.2 million
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• Everybody dies
  – Sickness is part of life
  – Life is not fair
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• Everybody dies
  – Sickness is part of life
  – Life is not fair
  – Christians do get sick (Isaiah 53:5)

ISA 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
Faith in the midst of Sickness

- Pray and take your medications
  – Divine healing

Matthew 9:1-8
MT 9:1 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. 2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."
Faith in the midst of Sickness

MT 9:3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

MT 9:4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5 Which is easier: to say, `Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, `Get up and walk'? 6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." 7 And the man got up and went home. 8 When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• Pray and take your medications
  – Divine healing

Jesus
• Heals to prove that he is the Messiah
• Does not heal everybody
• Is not able heal at some places
• Healing is permanent
Faith in the midst of Sickness

- Pray and take your medications
  - Divine healing
  - Doctors
  - Lessons from Nehemiah
Faith in the midst of Sickness

- Pray and take your medications
  - Divine healing
  - Doctors
Faith in the midst of Sickness
– Lessons from Nehemiah

NE 4:6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

NE 4:7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the men of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. 9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• Suffering is a choice
  – Job’s choice (2:10)

  “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” (Job 2:10).
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• Suffering is a choice
  – Job’s choice (2:10)
  – Paul’s choice (Phil. 4:11-13)

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• Suffering is a choice
  – Job’s choice (2:10)
  – Paul’s choice (Phil. 4:11-13)
  – Choose to adapt
A Burning Flame for God

Lessons from the life of John Sung of China

( Sung Shang Jie 1901-1944)
Faith in the midst of Sickness

- Trust and hope in dark times
  - Trust (Job 13:15)

JOB 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;
I will surely defend my ways to his face.
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• Trust and hope in dark times
  – Trust (Job 13:15)
  – Hope (Job 19:25-27)

**JOB 19:25** I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
**JOB 19:26** And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;
**JOB 19:27** I myself will see him with my own eyes--I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!
Faith in the midst of Sickness

- When nothing makes sense
  - Why, why, why?
Faith in the midst of Sickness

• Knowing God
Faith in the midst of Sickness

1. We are not alone
2. Everybody dies
3. Pray and take your medications
4. Suffering is a choice
5. Trust and hope in dark times
6. When nothing makes sense
7. Knowing God
Grace in the midst of Sickness

• God behind the scene
• God the Redeemer
• The Blessed Hope
Faith in the midst of Sickness

Job has faith in the midst in his sickness and there are many lessons we can learn from him. Ultimately it is about God’s Grace in the midst of sickness.
Transcript of this sermon available at www.kairos2.com/faith-sickness.htm

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