



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 4



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DAY FOUR

Job 1 - 5

When Everything Goes at Once

Job is not an easy book. It doesn't offer clean answers or tidy resolutions. It is a book that sits with you in the dark and refuses to turn the light on too quickly. And today, in just five chapters, you are going to encounter one of the most honest portraits of suffering ever written.

Before we read a single word of Job's story, understand this: this is not a book about why good people suffer. It is a book about what it looks like to remain in relationship with God when you cannot understand what He is doing.

God is not afraid of your questions. He wrote a whole book to prove it.

Job is introduced as a man who has everything. Wealth, family, health, reputation, integrity. The text says he was “blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” And then, in the space of a single chapter, he loses all of it.

His livestock. His servants. His children - all ten of them, in one moment, under one roof that collapses. And then his health. He sits

in ashes, scraping his sores with a piece of broken pottery, and his wife - who is also grieving, also broken - says: "Curse God and die."

- Grief can make people say things they don't mean. And sometimes things they do.

But what does Job do?

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

- Job 1:21

I want to be careful here. It would be easy to turn Job into a poster child for stoic suffering - the man who never complained. But that is not the full picture. Keep reading. Job is about to fall apart in ways that will make you feel less alone in your own falling apart.

Job's faith was not the absence of pain. It was the presence of God in the middle of pain. Those are not the same thing.

Three friends come to comfort him: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. And for seven days, they do something remarkable - they sit with him in silence. They don't speak. They don't explain. They just stay. For seven days.

That is the best thing they do in the entire book. Remember that.

- Sometimes presence is the only theology that helps.

And then they open their mouths. And everything unravels. Eliphaz goes first. His argument is ancient: you are suffering, therefore you must have sinned. God is just, therefore suffering is always punishment. Repent, and this will end. It sounds reasonable. It is also completely wrong - and God will say so at the end of the book.

But Eliphaz is not a villain. He is a man trying to make sense of something senseless. Doing what all of us do when we encounter suffering we cannot explain - reaching for a framework that makes it make sense, even if it costs the sufferer their dignity to fit inside it.

Be careful how quickly you explain someone else's pain. What looks like theology from the outside can feel like cruelty from the inside.

Job's response is raw. He curses the day he was born. He wishes he had never existed. He is not pretending to be okay. He is not performing faith for an audience. He is a man on the floor of his grief, and he is saying so out loud - to God, to his friends, to anyone who will hear.

And God does not strike him down for it. He lets Job speak. Because the God of the Bible has always been able to hold more honesty than we think He can.

You are allowed to tell God exactly how much it hurts. He can take it. He already knows anyway. Speak this over yourself today:

*I do not have to pretend with God.
He is not fragile. He is not surprised.
I can bring Him my confusion, my grief, my anger -
and He will not turn away.*

TOMORROW - Day 5 Job 6–9

Job is about to say things that will shock you - and God is not going to stop him. Tomorrow we go deeper, and Job begins to ask the question that lives at the bottom of every human heart: is God really fair?

Day 4 of 365



THE THRESH

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Moment of Encounter Dr. John Akpami	11am/9pm	MON/WEDS.
Faithful Insight Mike Mazzalongo	7am/7pm	WEDS./THURS.
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