PSALM 42:5, 11

"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, For I will yet praise Him, My Savior and my God."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

"Be joyful always; pray continually; Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

"I WILL PRAISE HIM STILL" Job 1:1 – 2:10

VSS. 1-5

Meet Job: A blameless and upright husband and father. A man who feared God and shunned evil. A man of great wealth who probably just wanted to keep farming 'til it was all gone. A man who highly regarded the spiritual lives of his adult children.

FROM FEAST TO FAMINE 1:6-19

A few side notes: The Enemy needed permission from the Almighty Vs. 12 Every joy or sorrow sifts through His hands

People nor things can give and or sustain joy. Assuming they can do so will threaten a heart of gratitude (Matt 6:19-21)

Did you notice how reading of Job's experience puts our own struggles into perspective?

Hurting?

Investing in the wounded and 'broken' will help fix the lens through which you view your own life and will often result in deeper gratitude.

Healed? Great! 2 Cor. 1:3-4

JOB'S RESPONSE 1:21

"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."

Indeed, as an old song suggests: "What do I possess that You did not give to me?"

THE SECOND TEST 2:1-8 As in the first attack, Satan had to get permission

Was Job's suffering both intense and legit? No doubt. Are the hardships you and I face real? Absolutely.

> Is God worthy of praise and thanksgiving? He is

FRIENDLY FIRE VS. 9

"Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" - Mrs. Job

When the one who should be his strongest earthly support fails him miserably...

That kind of thing can push a person to the brink

JOB'S RESPONSE

"Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?"

Where was Job's focus?

Note how he acknowledged his loss but also recalled God's goodness. By God's grace, Job shifted focus from the possessions he held to the One who held him

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." – Jim Elliot

Have you gained what cannot be lost? Rejoice and be glad, though in this world you will have trouble...