



Midweek Study Notes

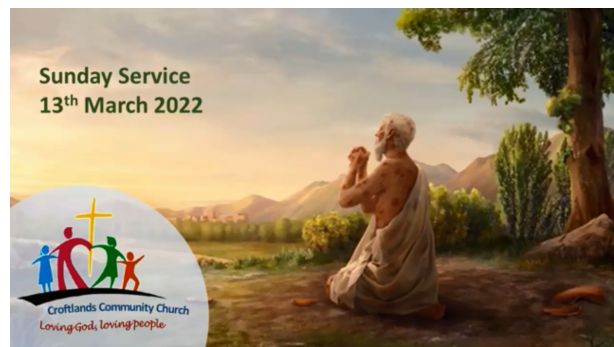
13th March 2022

Prepared by Matt

Giants of Faith - Job (Part 2)

A number of weeks ago we began looking at the story of Job, a true biblical giant of faith who remained utterly devoted to God, even when he was going through a number of horrendous circumstances that tested every aspect of his faith.

This Sunday, Kathryn took us into the center of Job's struggles, as a cosmic conflict saw God remove all the barriers around Job's health, leading to this man of exceptional character and faith suffering from terrible sores which caused his flesh to rot and smell.



Even as *'Job scraped his skin with a piece of broken pottery as he sat among the ashes,'* and even as his wife encouraged him to abandon his faith by saying *"are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die,"* Job stayed firm, replying *"you talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?"* **(Job 2:8-10)**

Job would go on to reflect on his suffering, as well as argue his case with God, questioning things that were way above his understanding. In turn, God reminded Job that we will never be able to understand all of His ways, saying *"Is it your wisdom that makes the hawk soar and spread its wings toward the south? Is it at your command that the eagle rises to the heights to make its nest?"* **(Job 39:26-27)**

This eventually led to Job repenting before the creator of the universe, telling God *"I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."* **(Job 42:6)** Job already knew *about* God, but after this encounter he *really* knew Him. *Job asked for answers, God gave him Himself.*

Even when it doesn't seem to make sense, we need to remember to take the bad days from God and not just the good, trusting Him in all our circumstances. One day we will see the magnitude of the canvas on which God is working, but until then, whilst we cannot understand all of His ways, we *can* have a personal encounter with the one and only living God.

Like Job, have you ever questioned why God would let you go through a particular situation? Do you believe that you received an answer?

The story of Job teaches us that God never abandons us, even during the darkest times in our lives. Was there a time when you felt like God had abandoned you? Would having His perspective over this time in your life have helped you to understand it better?

Kathryn reminded us that we are part of a cosmic conflict that we are often oblivious too. Are you ever aware of this conflict being fought over your life? Can you identify with what Kathryn said about Satan bombarding us with strategic attacks?



Richard read from **Isaiah 43:10-11**, reminding us that we are privileged to know the one and only God. What holds you back from using this firm knowledge to share the great truth of the gospel with others?

The story of Job can be quite heavy, so let's end with something a little bit different. In Sunday School, the children were asked to name something they were thankful to God for, as well as something amazing that only God knows about them. Why don't we do the same?

Suggestions for Prayer

Like Job, are you in desperate need of a fresh encounter with God, or reassurance that He can be trusted? Ask others to pray for you now.

Kathryn used the story of Job to remind us that sometimes, all we can do to support someone who has sunk into a place of hopelessness and despair is to sit with them in silence. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to sit alongside someone who is struggling.

Pray for the people of Ukraine (and Russia). You may wish to take inspiration from Jane Parker by using the words of **Psalms 22**.