

**1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV)**

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

**What does it mean to “redeem” someone?**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)**

*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price.*

**Romans 6:22 (NIV)**

*But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.*

**If Christ has paid the price for our freedom, what are all the implications that you can think of as to his right to determine the course of your life in the following areas?**

- Your career
- Your relationships
- Your health
- Your money

**Does his right to direct our lives, as he sees fit, create any tensions for you?**

**The story of Job brings the tension of God’s right to handle our lives how he sees fit to a climactic tension.**

**Read Job 1:1-19**

**If this happened to you, how would you react to God?**

**What characteristics of God would you be inclined to challenge?**

**Job's Response:****Job 1:20-22 (NIV)**

*At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup> 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."*

*<sup>22</sup> In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.*

**Why do you think Job was able to respond in such a way after these intense tragedies?  
What truths is he holding on to?**

**Read Job 2:1-8**

Job's personal health is now attacked by Satan, under God's sovereign oversight.

**What is the basic premise Satan is arguing?**

**Job's Response:****Job 2:9-10 (NIV)**

*His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"*

*<sup>10</sup> 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.*

**How might Job have been tempted to sin in what he said?**

**What truth does Job cling to that keeps him from falling?**

**Job's three friends come to grieve with him, but instead they end up frustrating him with their claims as to why he is suffering.**

**Job 4:7-9 (NIV)**

Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed?

<sup>8</sup> As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. <sup>9</sup> At the breath of God they are destroyed; at the blast of his anger they perish.

**What is the premise on which Job's three friends are operating?**

**What do you think about this line of reasoning? Do you agree or disagree?**

**Job 42:7-8 (NIV)**

After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. <sup>8</sup> So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."

**Did Job's loss and illness have anything at all to do with his lack of faith or some hidden sin in his life? What was the cause of Job's suffering?**

**How do you feel about God's decision to let Satan destroy Job's life in such a way?**

**How do you reconcile this with the holiness, justice, and love of God?**

**As Job struggled with trying to understand the cause of all his suffering, he defended himself before God by challenging the justice of God. God responds...**

**Job 38:1-11 (NIV)**

Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm. He said: <sup>2</sup> "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup> Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. <sup>4</sup> "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. <sup>5</sup> Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? <sup>6</sup> On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone-- <sup>7</sup> while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup> "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, <sup>9</sup> when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, <sup>10</sup> when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, <sup>11</sup> when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?"

*(This is just a small example of a huge barrage of questions with which God assaults Job – Job 38-41)*

What was God's response to Job's challenge of his justice?

### **Job's Response:**

#### **Job 40:3-5 (NIV)**

*Then Job answered the Lord: <sup>4</sup> "I am unworthy--how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. <sup>5</sup> I spoke once, but I have no answer-- twice, but I will say no more."*

#### **Job 42:1-6 (NIV)**

*Then Job replied to the Lord: <sup>2</sup> "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. <sup>3</sup> You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. <sup>4</sup> "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' <sup>5</sup> My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. <sup>6</sup> Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."*

**What changed in Job's perspective? What realization did he come to that caused him to humble himself and approach God in awe and a worshipful manner?**

**God knew why Job was suffering and allowed it to continue for his divine purposes. Though Job did not understand those purposes, how did God want Job to continue to relate to him through the experience?**

**Why did God allow Satan to act in such a way toward his faithful child?**

- 1) God is exalting \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Job needed a \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) We need to learn to \_\_\_\_\_

**What do you think this statement means:**

**"How we go through suffering is an indication of our belief about redemption"?**



**Luke 22:41-44 (NIV)**

*He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." <sup>43</sup> An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup> And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.*

**What are the most powerful words of this passage?**

**If we truly believe that Jesus has authority in and over our lives, how does that change how we should view our circumstances?**

**How should we react to God at times when we discover he is letting us suffer?**

**What does it truly mean to trust God to be "God" in our lives?**

**Not my will, but yours be done!**