



Daily Reflections

September 26, 2016

Scripture

Job 1: 6-22

One day, when the angels of God came to present themselves before the LORD,

Satan also came among them.

And the LORD said to Satan, "Whence do you come?"

Then Satan answered the LORD and said,

"From roaming the earth and patrolling it."

And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job, and that there is no one on earth like him,

blameless and upright, fearing God and avoiding evil?"

But Satan answered the LORD and said,

"Is it for nothing that Job is God-fearing?

Have you not surrounded him and his family

and all that he has with your protection?

You have blessed the work of his hands,

and his livestock are spread over the land.

But now put forth your hand and touch anything that he has,
and surely he will blaspheme you to your face.”

And the LORD said to Satan,

“Behold, all that he has is in your power;
only do not lay a hand upon his person.”

So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

And so one day, while his sons and his daughters
were eating and drinking wine

in the house of their eldest brother,

a messenger came to Job and said,

“The oxen were ploughing and the asses grazing beside them,
and the Sabeans carried them off in a raid.

They put the herdsmen to the sword,

and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

While he was yet speaking, another came and said,

“Lightning has fallen from heaven

and struck the sheep and their shepherds and consumed them;
and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

While he was yet speaking, another messenger came and said,

“The Chaldeans formed three columns,

seized the camels, carried them off,

and put those tending them to the sword,

and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

While he was yet speaking, another came and said,

“Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine

in the house of their eldest brother,

when suddenly a great wind came across the desert

and smote the four corners of the house.

It fell upon the young people and they are dead;

and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Then Job began to tear his cloak and cut off his hair.

He cast himself prostrate upon the ground, and said,

“Naked I came forth from my mother’s womb,

and naked shall I go back again.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;

blessed be the name of the LORD!”

In all this Job did not sin,
nor did he say anything disrespectful of God.

Our Scripture Reflection

The Book of Job is an amazing account about a good and just man. When God speaks with Satan about the goodness of Job, Satan challenges The Lord: Is Job good because he is blessed or is he blessed because he is good? Reluctantly, God allows Satan to afflict Job to test him. Even though Job experiences gut wrenching pain and heartache as the result, he refuses to curse God. In the midst of good times and even the bad times Job expresses his humble faith: "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Are you as humble when tragedy occurs? What a teacher Job can be for us all.

Food for your Journey

Henri Nouwen was a Christian leader who died unexpectedly in 1996 at age 64. Philip Yancey recently met with Paul Nouwen, Henri's younger brother, who reflected on the fact that people from many countries spoke of Henri's influence at his funeral. In *Christianity Today* (September 9, 2002), Yancey reports:

"I realized that, compared to Henri, I have nothing," Paul said. "And as I sat there listening, the difference became clear — Henri had God. That made all the difference." In a humble spirit, Paul Nouwen proceeded to tell of the changes he was making to better prepare for his own death and to restore a relationship with the God whom his brother knew so well. Henri Nouwen had lived as a missionary in North and South America, and then, after his death, he ended up being a missionary to his own brother.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, In a world where so many people are arrogant, self-righteous and all knowing, make me humble and completely open to you. Amen.