

Condensed Milk

"...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...." 1 Peter 2:2

Job: The Word on Suffering -- Part 12 (Based on Job 3:1-26)

Can a person be considered spiritually grounded if they get discouraged, anxious, or even depressed when they suffer? After all, the Bible says that God will keep those with a steadfast mind in perfect peace because they trust Him (Isaiah 26:3). And we know that the fruit of the Spirit is joy and peace, among other things. Jesus also said that he left his peace with us (John 14:27). If I'm lacking peace doesn't that indicate a lack of trusting God, a lack of being full of the Spirit, and a lack of receiving the peace Jesus gives? You'll find the answer in "blameless" Job.

In the first chapters of Job God makes it clear that Job was spiritually grounded. He was a blameless man and there was no one like him on earth (1:1, 8). If Oscars were given for "best Christian" Job would have won it hands down. We know that Job was not blameless in the sense of being sinless because that would contradict other parts of the Bible.

Rather, Job was blameless because when he did sin he repented of it. He was also devoted to God and he practiced doing what was right. If it was right to feed the poor that's what he did. If it was right not to lust after other women Job made "a covenant with his eyes" not to do so. If it was right to defend the helpless he stood up for them.

Job's Oscar winning spirituality was motivated, at least in part, by his "fear of God". God saw it and approved. It was the kind of fear we should have of a God who will always do what is right and cannot act in any way but justly. He lived as if a holy God watched and responded to everything he did and said. Simply put, he was afraid to sin because he knew God would see it and do something about it. For that reason, at least, Job "shunned evil".

Despite being spiritually grounded, however, Job 3 tells us that Job got depressed. We will look at that more closely in the next reading.

