

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran
Church**

**Sermon by Pastor
Anthony E. Schultz**

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Pentecost 17. Eisenach Series

Job 5:17-26.



17 "Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. 18 For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal. 19 From six calamities he will rescue you; in seven no harm will touch you. 20 In famine he will deliver you from death, and in battle from the stroke of the sword. 21 You will be protected from the lash of the tongue, and need not fear when destruction comes. 22 You will laugh at destruction and famine, and need not fear the wild animals. 23 For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field, and the wild animals will be at peace with you. 24 You will know that your tent is secure; you will take stock of your property and find nothing missing. 25 You will know that your children will be many, and your descendants like the grass of the earth. 26 You will come to the grave in full vigor, like sheaves gathered in season.

People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in Hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

It is tempting to think from time to time – that we have terrible troubles. Tempting to think that things are more terrible now – than ever! This simply is not true! Take for example the battle of the Somme – which began at 7:30 in the morning, July 1st, 1916. F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote, "See that little stream? We could walk to it in two minutes. It took the British a month to walk to

it—a whole empire walking very slowly, dying in front and pushing forward behind.” British infantry advanced toward German trenches. In the beginning 8 British soldiers fell per second. Let me say that again. 8 British soldiers fell per second. By the time the sun went down 19,240 were dead; another 38,230 more were wounded. That little stream—the River Somme would literally run red with the blood of British soldiers cut down like wheat by the fire of German machine guns. If people are not good at anything else—they are good at inflicting pain on one another. There seems to be no end to the ever increasing efficiency with which we can cause one another pain and ♥ ache. Today in the light of God’s Word we will:

Begin To Understand Suffering

I. All things work together for good.

II. God is our refuge and strength

The part of God’s Word we are concentrating on—the first of the 5 books of Hebrew Poetry in the Old Testament. Job lived in the land of Uz. That’s U-Z! The land of Uz—perhaps in Northern Arabia. When did Job live? Different scholars have different ideas. If it was essential to know—the LORD would have told us. Some theologians think Job lived around the time of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah. God’s Word says, **“In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.”** V.1b Blameless—without blame! Does that mean Job didn’t do sins? Of course not. It means that all his sins were forgiven. How does that happen? The very same way it happens for you and for me. We are saved by grace through faith in the Gospel promises of God. Job was forgiven—completely! Job feared God. That’s not scared—not falling down in fear like Dorothy and the cowardly lion and the scarecrow and the tin man—their knees knocking and collapsing

before the Wizard of Oz. **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom!”** It’s a fear to offend. It’s the deepest and most powerful respect for the glory and the will of our Heavenly Father! Job shunned – he turned away with evil. He wanted nothing to do with what was wrong. He stayed away from what was bad! Job lived his life close to his Heavenly Father. Job was also concerned about the eternal welfare of his 7 sons and 3 daughters. Job’s children would take turns having family feasts in their homes. They would eat and drink and celebrate. Job was concerned that during these celebrations they might get carried away – and do something sinful and spiritually dangerous. And so God’s Word says, **“When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s regular custom.** Here is a good example for us – to be concerned about the spiritual welfare of our children. To encourage them – first and foremost by our powerful example. It is from our example to our children that little girls learn what kind of man to choose for a husband. From our example that our sons will learn what kind of woman to choose for a wife. They learn from the example of their parents not to abuse drugs or alcohol. Learn from the example of their parents not to curse or swear. Learn from the example of their parents not to argue – to shout or scream or literally hit or scratch or bite or throw things! Learn from their parents to read *Meditations* and to come to Church every week – and pretty soon Advent Wednesdays and before you know it – Lenten Wednesdays. Job taught his children to love the great I AM!

One might expect that someone like Job – living close to the LORD might live on *Easy Street*! Not so much! ¹³ **One day when**

Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" Job 1

At this, Job got up and tore his robe – as a sign of painful sadness – and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: (words that we say at the graveside of fellow believers) "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." Satan – that cowardly murderous serpent who slithers out of the pit of eternal flames further accuses. "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped

himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" Job said to her, "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 could things get any worse? Job's so called "friends" all came to visit Job. In a nutshell they told Job he must have done something very sneaky and very wicked for God to be punishing him in such a painful public way. What he needed to do was confess that sin and perhaps God would have mercy on him – forgive his sin and ease his suffering! Job chapter 5 is Hebrew poetry – that could be memorized and remembered when painful troubles and difficulties come into your life! To his so called friends – who failed to bring comfort but instead the salt of work-righteousness in his literal wounds – to Eliphaz and then Bildad, Zophar and finally Elihu. As we read today Eliphaz says to Job: ¹⁷ **"Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. ¹⁸ For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal."** The LORD corrects and disciplines! Do these words sound familiar? Remember the letter to the Hebrews? **"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punished everyone he accepts as a son."** Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and life! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God

disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed!" Hebrews 12:5b-13 Eliphaz is speaking as though Job is being disciplined – because he has done something wrong. But Job is not guilty. His troubles are not discipline from God. His troubles are not because Job has done something wrong – and the LORD is calling Job to repentance!

Eliphaz goes on: **19 From six calamities he will rescue you; in seven no harm will touch you.** This is a Hebrew figure of speech. There is rescue from 6 calamities. But what if there is even more? There is rescue from 7 troubles – and if there is more trouble – there will be more rescue! **20 In famine he will deliver you from death...** Pastor Gartner talked about that last week. Remember the widow of Zaraheth – from so far up north – she was out of Israel – she was by Tyre and Sidon – from Lebanon! By the power of the Holy Spirit she gave a drink to Elijah even though there was a 3 ½ year drought. Imagine if there was not a drop of rain – not a drop of dew for 3 ½ years! There would be cracks in the soil – as hard as concrete – where you could lose a small child. To ask for a drink of water – and for a piece of bread when there was no more than a little bread to be had and the widow and her son would die of starvation. The LORD delivered Elijah. But that was no comfort to Job. What Job needed was some sympathy – some understanding and some encouragement. Here was none of that!

And in battle (*the LORD will protect you*) from the stroke of the sword. **21 You will be protected from the lash of the tongue, and need not fear when destruction comes.** My Uncle George and my

Uncle Paul were a part of the invasion at Normandy – D-day! My Uncle George stormed the beach. He gave first aid to fellow soldiers that were wounded. Uncle George took out German machine gun nests. Uncle George captured German soldiers. Uncle George was shot! He was shot in the canteen! Jesus kept Uncle George safe from physical harm. But Uncle George was wounded in his mind – they didn't know to call it Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Sometimes that's even more painful – because you can't put a bandage on a wound in your emotions! Jesus protected Uncle George – by grace alone – because the Lord is good! Uncle Paul had defensive wounds. He must have put his arms up – in the face of an explosion – and little hot pieces of shrapnel were burned into his arms. Years and years later – Uncle Paul would pick at his arms – and they would bleed when little pieces of shrapnel would work their way to the surface. All these wounds are part of life in this sin infected world. Sometimes Jesus keeps us safe from wounds. And sometimes Jesus makes us strong to endure these wounds. And sometimes Jesus brings soldiers home to the forever peace that comes from sins forgiven for the sake of the crucified and risen Christ. Jesus doesn't protect us if we deserve it. And he doesn't wound those who are guilty. We are all guilty and we are all forgiven by grace alone!

Finally Eliphaz says: **²³ For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field, and the wild animals will be at peace with you. ²⁴ You will know that your tent is secure; you will take stock of your property and find nothing missing. ²⁵ You will know that your children will be many...** These words must have hurt – for Job had just lost all 3 daughters and all 7 sons! **And your descendants like the grass of the earth.** How would this be possible when all his children were dead? How could he have grand-children and great-grandchildren – if he had no children?

26 You will come to the grave in full vigor, like sheaves gathered in season. Repent! Confess! Admit your grievous sin and then you will be blessed by God? How could that happen – when Job was not guilty of some secret, painful, horrible and hurtful sin? Think about it. **You will have a covenant with the stones of the field.** It was only a few days before Christmas in the year 1942. My Mom and her sisters LaVerne and Vivian and Elaine and her baby brother Joel were in the farm house – getting ready to go to town to practice for Christmas Eve children’s service. My Grandpa Lamke was going to plow the driveway to take them to town. He hitched up the horse to the plow and came out of the barn and around – past the field – when the plow hit something hard – maybe a stone at the edge of the field and a piece of the plow broke off and hit my grandpa in the head and he died! He died! That was hard! But it wasn’t wrong! It wasn’t that Grandpa’s guardian angel failed him. It was time for my grandpa to come home to heaven. My grandpa died when he was only 42 years old. I didn’t ever get to meet him in this world. But I will meet him in Heaven. When I think about going home to Heaven – to see my Savior face to face – to hear angels sing – to be forever safe and at home. Just one more little moment of joy will be – when I get to see both my grandpas for the very first time in Heavenly glory. **Even so come quickly Lord Jesus to bring us all home forever. Amen!**

To God alone all glory!

Rev. Anthony E. Schatz



