

will leave this world with absolutely nothing. So life doesn't depend on all that happens in the middle. It depends on the One who created you at the start and who will take you home at the end—God. And God was the *one and only thing* that hadn't changed for Job. It's good his life was based on him!

In fact, in the midst of his suffering, Job said the most remarkable thing: *"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart years within me!"* (Job 19:23-27). Satan was wrong. Job didn't trust in God to gain God's blessings. Job trusted in God because God was his Redeemer and God was his hope. And that made Job content, even when he lost everything in his life. Jesus lives, and when this life is over, you will too! If you look for contentment outside of Jesus, there will always be a cloud hanging over your life. If Jesus is your treasure, nothing—not even death—can take that from you.

That was Job's sermon. So what are you preaching? You know that your life is a sermon, right? You are always shouting out to everyone around you either contentment or discontentment. You are always shouting out to everyone either trust in God or trust in things. Your daily life is a sermon. So what are people hearing from you? God wants to use your faith, even under trial, to prove that the secret to contentment is his love and salvation. The devil wants to use your discontentment to foster bitterness in other people's hearts too. So who's using you right now? There is no more powerful sermon than when believers trust in God in the struggles of life.

Like Horatio Spafford. He was a wealthy lawyer from Chicago. God blessed Horatio with a beautiful wife, four young daughters and an infant son. Then, in the blink of an eye, everything changed. In the winter of 1871, scarlet fever took the life of his infant son. In 1873, Horatio decided to move his family to England. He sent his family ahead of him on a ship, except another ship broadsided them on the middle of the ocean. Two hundred and twenty six people died, including Horatio's four daughters.

So Horatio immediately boarded a ship to join his lonely wife in England. Three days into the journey, they passed the very place where his daughters had drowned. As Horatio gazed out over the icy sea, he ran to his room and wrote a poem to God: "When peace, like a river, attends my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll – whatever my lot, you has taught me to say: It is well, it is well with my soul." "My sin – oh the joy of this glorious thought – my sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!"

We can't always see or understand why God does what he does in our lives. Job didn't understand. Horatio didn't understand. Yet, they trusted in God their Savior. They held onto the one thing in life that never changes—Jesus. The "secret" to contentment really isn't a secret. There will always be one more thing that you want, but you already have everything you need.

**Job 1:6-22**  
**Pastor Nathan Nass**

**The Tenth Commandment**  
**August 16, 2015**

**One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. <sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth, going back and forth in it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." <sup>9</sup>"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. <sup>10</sup>"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.<sup>11</sup> But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." <sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. <sup>13</sup>One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, <sup>14</sup>a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, <sup>15</sup>and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" <sup>16</sup>While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" <sup>17</sup>While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>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!" <sup>20</sup>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.**

### **The Secret to Contentment**

A discouraged man slumped down into the chair at a counselor's office. "What seems to be the problem?" asked the counselor. "I'm not sure," the man said. "All I know is that I'm not happy or content. Can you help me?" The counselor thought for a moment and smiled, "I've heard there's a famous comedian coming to town, and all his shows are always sold out. People say he makes them laugh until their sides hurt. To start, why don't you go to one of his shows and see if that helps cheer you up?" The man stared at the floor and said, "Sir, I am that comedian."

Do you ever feel like that? Discontent—and not sure why? You can make everyone else laugh, but there's just this feeling eating away at you. You can put a smile on your face, you can tell everyone that you're okay—even great—but inside there's this cloud hanging over your life. That's what discontentment does. It's hard to imagine a feeling that affects

our lives more. Everything can be going well in our lives. God can pour blessing after blessing on us, yet something doesn't seem right. Something always seems like it's missing. If you're not content, that never really leaves your mind.

And do you know what makes it worse? Facebook! Studies have shown that Facebook makes people discontent. I bet you can guess why. When you go on Facebook, all you see are the best moments of everyone else's life. Nobody posts their bad moments. And when you look at everyone's best moments, how many times haven't you caught yourself thinking, "If I only had..." Fill in the blank. "Then I could be content!" Their new car. Their great vacations. Their secure job. Their perfect kids. You name it. We're always one thing away from being content. And you realize what we're doing, right? Breaking the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment. Coveting. And coveting always leaves you feeling discontent. There's got to be a better way to live!

What's the secret to contentment? That's what God wants to teach us today from the story of Job. Job has one of the most incredible stories in the Bible. It starts in God's throne room in heaven: "*One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD.*" And for some reason—I can't explain it—God let the devil join them. But what God does is really neat. He singles out Job and says to the devil, "*Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.*" What a compliment! "Look, devil, you have had no luck tempting my servant Job! Ha!"

Except, the book of Job doesn't use the word devil. It calls the devil "Satan," Satan means "accuser," and that's exactly what the devil does. He accuses! Satan said, "*Does Job fear God for nothing?...Stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.*" Do you get the devil's accusation? Job was one of the wealthiest men in the world, and the devil was convinced that Job only believed in God because God had been so good to him. The devil doubts that there are any true believers. Just fair-weather fans. "If you send him trouble, even Job will curse you to your face."

Is that true? The devil is convinced that people only believe in God because they expect something in return. Is that true for you? Ask yourself, "How much of my faith is tied to what God gives me? If things weren't going well for me right now, would I still believe in Jesus? Do I ever go to church with the hope that God will then give me more of what I want? If not, why am I so discontent?" The devil is evil, but he is smart. He knows us well, and so he points to the discontentment in our lives, and the Accuser accuses, "God, if you send them trouble, they will curse you to your face!" Is he right?

Well, to prove Satan wrong—to prove the genuineness of Job's faith—God allowed Satan to bring trouble into Job's life. And did he ever! Job experienced the worst day. First, a servant came with the news that thieves had stolen his 500 donkeys and 500 yoke of oxen and murdered his servants. Then, before he even finished talking, another servant breathlessly reported that fire from heaven had burned up his 7,000 sheep. But before the

second servant even finished, a third came to report that more raiders had seized his 3,000 camels and killed more servants. Boom. Boom. Boom. One moment, Job was the wealthiest man in the world. Then it was all gone.

We should get this by now, right? The secret to contentment isn't stuff, because in a minute it can all be gone. But how often don't you still catch yourself thinking that you would be content if you just had that one more thing! It's almost embarrassing how often we do this, isn't it? As much as we say that contentment really isn't tied to money, we dream and think and act as if it is. There's always just one more thing that's our key to contentment. But then, when we actually get that thing, what happens? Well, then there's just one other thing that we need. It never ends! If Job's contentment came from his possessions, well, in one day it was over!

Donkeys—gone. Sheep—gone. Camels—gone. Servants—gone. And as he heard shock after shock, I bet he was thinking, "At least I've got my kids. I can be content as long as I have my kids." In tough times, we hold on to our families even closer. But while the third messenger was still speaking, "*another messenger came and said, 'Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, 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!'*" If Job's contentment came from his kids, it was over too.

This story makes me scared. It proves that suffering and sadness will come even to those who are faithful believers in God. Job's story challenges us to ask what we really need to be content. It challenges us to think about what we can really hold on to in life. Even family can't be the secret to contentment. You know that. Kids grow up. Parents die. Relatives disappoint. And then what's left? This story makes me scared, because it shows me how much I depend on things and on people for my happiness, instead of on God. At any moment, those things can be gone. And the fact that I'm discontent right now, even when I haven't lost everything, shows my sin.

"What would I do if I lost *my* kids?" That must be what that last servant was wondering. Imagine you were in his shoes. How he must have dreaded sharing that awful news with his master! What would I do if I lost *my* kids? Well, here's what Job did. "*Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship.*" One of those actions doesn't fit with the others. Ripping clothes. Shaving head. Falling to the ground. Worshipping? Can you imagine the look on the servants' faces? What a powerful message about contentment they got from their master that day! Job lost everything he held dear, and then he got down and worshipped God.

Because he hadn't actually lost everything. He still had one thing—his Lord. So here's what Job 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.*" Job understood the truth about our existence. We come into this world with absolutely nothing. We