

Sunday Sermon 10062024 Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

“Faith: Entrust Me to the Absolute”

Two passages from the Old and New Testaments today introduce us to two people who trust in God. During this time, we want to examine their trust and learn a lesson in our faith.

For the two characters we will consider, let's briefly look at the existence of Satan centered around the Bible. Satan is 'Sathahnah' in Hebrew and 'Satanas' in Greek. The meaning of the word is 'great enemy' or 'traitor'. In the Bible, 'Satan' and 'Devil' are described as the same being. He is against Christ and against the saints.

In the Old Testament scripture, Satan appears as a spiritual being on a mission to test man. He uses their weaknesses and limitations to tempt people to sin. In the New Testament, Satan appears as an adversary against Jesus and rebels against his teaching. In this world, he aims to attack us to prevent the children of God from obeying God. He is, in a word, the embodiment of a trust-breaking being.

I. Job:

Through the text of the book of Job, we can see how terrible suffering and pain Job suffered. It's hard to even express it with our mouths. In chapter 1, Job experiences the loss of both his children and property. But at that time, God stopped the devil from harming Job's body. Next, the level of suffering was increased a step further, and his body was attacked. But his life was in God's protection and security.

It is easy for us to criticize that God allowed the devil to attack Job. But God's emphasis is on protecting Job's life. He says, “Job, endure this affliction with me. I will surely protect you, and I will reward you with a great spiritual victory through your patience.”

Here let us compare 2:9 and 10. There was introduced the expression of Job and his wife. His wife told him. “Are you still going to remain faithful? It would be better for you to curse God and die.” In response to this, he replied, Job said: “When God sends us something good, we welcome it. How can we complain when he sends us trouble?”

Which of these two expressions do you think makes more sense? Naturally, it seems that Job is unrealistic and that his wife is acting sensibly.

So, is our faith learning and finding a way that makes sense? Are all unrealistic thoughts worthless and closed? Through our life of faith, we are constantly in conflict between the hearts of Job and his wife. In my heart, I want to follow the path of Job, and in reality, I want to follow the path of his wife.

But there is only one way left for us. If it were you, could you ignore Job's wife's attack and rely entirely on God? Why is Job so stubbornly trusting in God despite so much suffering? Because he knew who God was: He was the Almighty. Our faith is to entrust ourselves to an absolute being.

So, in our belief, there is a true contract between me and the Absolute. If either party is likely to break the contract, the contract should not have been made in the first place.

However, if the contract is broken because of human weakness, humans fortunately can still get a chance to be forgiven by the Absolute. But if the Absolute breaks the contract, we are bound to be defeated. Can you guarantee that the absolute you believe in will never change?

The book of Job introduces at the outset: "He was a man without blemish and upright, who feared God and shunned evil." No one is born into the world with complete faith already from the womb. Then, how did Job come to know God? The text of the book of Job does not explain it to us.

Today's text does not describe the process by which we exercise our faith; instead, it shows how much we can trust God. How much? Until your life runs out. As with Abraham and Moses, we can see that Job's faith was also permitted by God. The reason God made a deal with Satan over Job's faith was because he wanted Job to be able to trust God sincerely and completely. We find another example through Jesus Christ.

II. Jesus:

Let us find out who Jesus is in the Hebrew scripture. In short, he is the son of obedience to God and also God Himself.

I summarize the four words of Jesus' life in the text. It can be called obedience, sacrifice, reconciliation, and sovereignty. Of those four acts, I would like to concentrate on his "obedience" today. Because the other three are the result of his obedience.

He thoroughly humbled himself and submitted himself to the fulfillment of the Father's plan. Even when humans insulted, beat, and crucified him in sin and ignorance, he has become a sacrifice for their sins and for your and my salvation. Jesus is the incarnation of being obedient to God. Where did Jesus' obedience to God come from? It came from absolute trust in his father.

Let's look at the meaning of the word "obedience" as defined by modern man. 'Obedience' has traditionally been a positive word. In my childhood, when I grew up, this word was highly respected. Obedient people were welcomed at home, at school, at work, and at church. But for modern people, this word is not attractive and unpopular. People say "obedient" means that self-governance and independent thought are sacrificed.

In a generation where personal selfishness is widespread, obedient people are easily ignored and used by others. As a result, modern man began to view the word 'obedience' in a negative way. This negative tendency led them even to the movement of disobedience to God.

But the necessity of obedience has not lost value because of the change of time. The fundamental truth of mankind has never changed. You should not lose the virtue of obeying your parents at home and your faith in obedience to God in your belief. We must learn and teach obedience. As the demands of the times change, the basic teachings of the Creator are desperately required of human beings.

Creativity and application are never diminished or lost in those who obey. On the contrary, God makes their creativity and application maximized in the relationship of mutual obedience. We see the most perfect example in the cooperation of the obedience of the Trinity.

We see the amazing results of creativity and application in the relationships of wife and husband, parent and child, teacher and disciple who obey each other. Human beings can never obtain beneficial results in the relationship of boundaries, competition, and disobedience.

I would like to express the "obedience" shown by Jesus Christ in modern social language as "communication and cooperation that sincerely considers the other person." However, in its implementation, the intention to fulfill the will of God the Creator must always be the top priority.

#Scooter Story: A few years ago, my grandson Jacob received a scooter as a gift for his second birthday. Initially, the gift was intended to be used with Caleb, who is two years older than him.

The two brothers immediately had an opening ceremony in the living room, riding the scooter for the first time. But the joyous occasion was short-lived because only minutes later, the two brothers were crying, screaming, and fighting over the scooter. Esther's intervention did not work as World War II raged on. Neither Caleb nor Jacob obeyed their mother. Eventually Esther declared a "scooter ban" as a solution to the problem.

Their parents wanted to give one child a toddler bike and another child a scooter. This was because if two children could alternate rides on different rides, they could save money.

However, the plan was a treatment that did not consider child psychology from the beginning. Their dad had to order another scooter of a slightly larger size for Caleb right away. If he could trust his tolerant dad, Jacob would share a scooter with his older brother. But he was still too young to know about his father.

However, even though we have matured in this age, if we still do not know who my Heavenly Father is, it causes serious problems for our souls. How could you entrust your life to someone you don't know?

As we have seen, we do not have to fear Satan's attack when we rely on Jesus' name and his power. Maybe there is a time when we will face trials. But God is not the one who leaves us like orphans. He prepares a way for us to avoid the trials and helps us to overcome and mature. The Apostle Paul asks in Romans, "Who can overthrow us when we are in the protection of Jesus?"

Because God created us and loves us, He died for us. But unless we have absolute trust in God, we cannot die for Him. Where that gap exists, the relationship of life is broken. This is our dilemma.

This is because absolute peace, strength, and rest are provided to us in the relationship of absolute trust between the Creator and His creatures.

Satan dragged Job's body to the brink of death, but Job did not give up his trust in God. In the end, Satan lost to Job. Jesus, by His authority, has broken the acts of Satan's rebellion against God's plan of salvation. He is also the one who defeats all of Satan's obstacles to our obedience to God.

In today's scriptures, both Job and Jesus started from mature faith. Relatively, we all started with immature faith on this earth. However, the spiritual destination is the same for all pilgrims of faith. By trusting in the Lord from earth to heaven, we accomplish His will and enjoy His blessings.

Jesus came from the Father. So, he knows Almighty God well and trusts him. So, when we know Jesus, we can trust Almighty God. As a result, we can choose the path Jesus chose. The answer to our faith is always in Jesus. Amen!

Reflections and Applications for Today's Sermon:

- 1) Without going into detail, the Bible introduces the existence of Satan and his evil activities. What passage of Scripture do you use as a weapon to repel his attacks?
- 2) What advice, challenge, or encouragement does Job's confession in Job 2:10, "When God sends us something good, we welcome it. How can we complain when he sends us trouble?" give you in your current situation?
- 3) Today is "World Communion Sunday." Meditate on Hebrews 2:10: "Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers (family)." How does this verse guide you to pray for and help believers scattered throughout the world?