

The Valley of the Shadow of Death: Job

Day 1 Foundations

Love is the foundation of all creation. Check out this devotional to find out more:

<https://richinpraise.com/devotionals/2019/8/22/uakrp5tth67n9lblr0s7557g3d9yvn>

The question for us all is this: Is love the foundation for your life? For your activities, choices, thoughts and actions? Is it the foundation for your interactions with God? The foundation for the way you meet and engage with others? The way you view yourself and your neighbors? If not, why not? What needs to happen in your life to secure it on the firm foundation of love, the foundation of all things that are eternal?

Verses: John 3:16, Romans 1:20, Nehemiah 9:6

Prayer Topics: Love, Creation, Stability

Day 2

A Strange Wisdom

Our world counts itself wise because it knows how to get what it wants. From God's perspective, the world is foolish because it does not have the wisdom to want the right things. How do we make the foolish wise? Through suffering, the foolish of the world (all of us) learn to be wise, because we learn to pursue love.

<https://thedeeppestvalley.com/the-deepest-valley-blog/f/wisdom-is-found-in-god%E2%80%99s-love>

Verses: Proverbs 3:1-4, John 21:15-20, John 8:31-36

Prayer Topics: Clarity, Truth, Humility

Day 3

Foolishness

Scripture tells us that man's wisdom is foolishness, but how can this be? We see man creating great buildings and cities, great art and music, and we even see man walking on the moon. I was once given a gift called a useless box. The only thing on the box was a switch, and when you flipped the switch on, the only thing it did was to open the box so that a lever could emerge to turn the switch off. It was a clever piece of design whose only function was self-negation. That is the way it is with the wisdom of man. To understand why the wisdom of God is superior, check out this devotional:

<https://www.truthforlife.org/devotionals/alistair-begg/9/28/2025/>

Verses: Romans 11:33, James 1:5, 1 Corinthians 2:14

Prayer Topics: Discernment, Insight, Knowledge

Day 4

Suffering

In the book of Job, suffering is on the menu, and most people go to Job to try to understand their own suffering. Check out this devotional to learn more:

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/suffering-love-2018-10-18/>

Although I do think that God does have something to do with our suffering, rather than it being all an issue of faith, even if it is only to allow our suffering, I would agree with the author that one overlooked aspect of our suffering is our unity with God. In our suffering we are forced out of the delusion that we are adequate within ourselves, that we can live independently of others and of God. Our suffering forces us to reach out to God, and in our suffering we come to understand God in a different way. What has your suffering taught you? How has it changed you? What is the role of faith in suffering? How can it draw you nearer to God?

Verses: Romans 8:28, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Hebrews 2:10

Prayer Topics: Endurance, Longsuffering, Dedication

Day 5

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today

Scripture teaches the importance of worship for there is power in worship because "God inhabits the praise of His people," Psalm 22:3. Worship is organic and grows out of our relationship with God and as a result worship is the lifestyle of God's people. In verse 20 it clearly states Job worshiped God after getting the heartwrenching news about his sons, daughters and their livelihood, their possessions. Job didn't blame God for what happened to his family; he worshiped God. Jesus while being put to death on the cross asked God to forgive because those they knew not what they were doing. Likewise, Stephen when being put to death looked up to heaven and asked God not to hold this charge against them. Forgiveness is an act of worship. When we forgive it gives the one being forgiven the opportunity to encounter God and be redeemed. God doesn't want any of His children ignorant of the devil's devices as Paul states in 2 Corinthians 2:11. Jesus in John 8:44 calls the devil the "father of lies." Jesus even warns us by telling us the devil's assignment by calling him a "thief whose sole purpose is to steal, kill and destroy." Just like Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit as recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke, we, who are Christ Jesus' disciples, are sent into the world, John 17:18, equipped with Him, John 17:6-26. Jesus is/was from the tribe of Judah the tribe known for worship as recorded in Genesis 49:8-12 when Israel blessed his sons while in Egypt before his death. In 2 Chronicles 7:14 this

promise is recorded, "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Repentance is worship because we acknowledge our need for God.

Worshiping God teaches us the importance and necessity of laying all of our burdens on His shoulders because He's the only One able to bear our burdens, therefore, worship is freedom to be who God created us to be in Him a living witness of His grace and mercy. Daily we must consider our ways, Lamentations 3:40; Haggai 1:5. It's crucial we allow God to teach us to number our days, Psalm 90:12. The choice is ours who we decide to serve, Joshua 24:15. My hope and prayer, we daily choose to respond to God's love in obedience by daily picking up our cross to follow Christ Jesus as He leads and guides us on this journey home.