**Patience (Job 42:1-7)**

 Be patient and you will eventually receive the answers to your questions. Today we are going to be talking about patience, through discussing Job, who presents as a hero of patience in the Bible. How important it is to read the book of Job and to especially see how different humanity’s level of understanding is compared to that of God. The human being is limited; if he is God-fearing, he may conclude that he goes through hard or evil times because of his own sin. If man has not cultivated his relationship with God at all, he will lose his patience when he is lacking answers for his difficult and sometimes impossible situations. God, however, according to what He has been saying, is not only greater in vision and plan than mankind but is also working for the good of humanity in unexpected and unprecedented ways.

 Job’s situation was truly unbearable. If he had been a little more worldly, perhaps he would have cursed god and prepared to die in his misery. However, during his whole ordeal, in all 42 chapters of his account, Job did not sin. Yes, he confessed that He spoke about things that were greater than him and that he was ignorant of the wonders of God. But these were not sins born of a willfully evil heart, but rather of ignorance. They were mistakes rather than sins.

 If we think for a moment about his life, it is difficult to even imagine the events that took place: He lost everything, even up to his health, in one day. Not one person was left around him to encourage him. Even his wife lost her faith and told him to curse God and die already… But Job stayed patient and even said that His Redeemer lived and that he would one day see Him with his own body. Job continued in patience through an unimaginably hopeless situation. Once again, I believe that God is saying to us, “Be patient and you will eventually receive the answers to your questions.”

There was once a Christian clergyman who was an old-fashioned gentleman, beloved by everyone, and his influence in the little town was great, so good and active was he.

A young man of the village had been badly insulted and came to the pastor full of angry indignation, declaring that he was going at once to demand an apology.

"My dear boy," the pastor said, "take a word of advice from an old man who loves peace. An insult is like mud; it will brush off much better when it is dry. Wait a little, till he and you are both cool, and the thing will be easily mended. If you go now it will only be to quarrel."

It is pleasant to be able to add that the young man took his advice, and before the next day was gone the insulting person came to beg forgiveness.

 It is better to be patient than to act when we are in emotional turmoil or feeling wounded. Job did not dare to say, for example, “God this is all your fault; I didn’t do anything wrong, and you are punishing me unjustly.” His friends, however, did say that he needed to repent for his sins – but Job knew very well that in his situation, sin was not the cause of the calamities that befell him.

 We also, just as Job did, are to learn patience in all situations. Sometimes those can be a sickness from which there seems to be no quick exit. Sometimes relationships have not been healed even after years have gone by. Other times, job-related misfortunes continue to pile up. Whatever the case may be, God is calling us to be patient. It is easy to wait patiently when everything is going well and we are not experiencing any specific pain or danger. However, it is in the midst of trials and tribulations that patient waiting will help us to bear this world’s unsolvable evils and problems that befall us.

 It is true that we will not know the source of every evil thing that happens to us in this world. Evil comes from Satan, from people, from both of them cooperating, and sometimes from people stepping outside the protection of God’s umbrella. At times, evil happens because this world has already been condemned to death along with all people. And at other times, though not always, the evil that comes is God’s punishment (for sin).

 Through all this, Job passed. He suffered, and sometimes we may suffer as well. However, if we remember like Job that God is greater than us and that His plans are good for us in the end, we will be able to live in our current tribulations with that future hope.

 Our hope is in seeing Jesus Christ after this life – for that reason, whatever our valley of the shadow of death, or our unbearable circumstances, our end contains God’s best for us.

 All of Job’s questions were answered when he encountered a single reality: when he encountered God Himself, when He had a real-life experience with the Living God, he knew once and for all that God was bigger than he was, and that his ultimate purposes are far beyond our ability to understand them. Because God is God, Job’s inner turmoil and questions subsided. It was enough for him that he confessed his mistakes based on his ignorance, and that he got to marvel at God’s power and greatness.

 Be patient and you will eventually receive the answers to your questions. Therefore, whatever your situation, your trials or difficulties, remember that God is bigger than you, and that His plans are far beyond and above your understanding. Trust in His goodness and His power. Be patient, and you will eventually receive the answers to all your questions. The Lord bless you. Amen.