

**Episode:** Genesis & Job Series No. 04

**Narrator:** Job's wife

**Primary Scriptures:** Job 2:1-3:26

**Story Summary:** God allows Satan to test Job by taking his health; three friends arrive

**Location:** In the land of Uz

**Time:** In the time of Job

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Job 2:9-10; 3:25-26

In the previous episode, Satan, with God's permission, tested Job by taking away all his possessions and family. In this episode, God grants Satan permission to continue Job's test and take away his health, replacing it with pain and agony.

In Job 2:9, Job's wife says, "Will you maintain your integrity? Curse God and die!" These short sentences help set up two important aspects of Job's story. The more minor of the two is Job's relationship with his wife. These sentences are often used by modern readers to condemn his wife for being against Job. However, it is as likely that she is being merciful to him. Death looks like a much better alternative for him than life.

The second, and most important, aspect her comments set up is how humans understand God. In her belief system, God reacts directly based on the actions of humans. If Job is righteous, God lets him live. If Job opposes God, God will kill him.

A primary purpose of the book of *Job* is to explore and understand the nature of God. Did God reward Job and his friends with prosperity because they were righteous or for some other reason? When Job lost everything, was God punishing him for some unknown sinful behavior or for some other reason? Was God punishing Job at all or was something else going on? Why did so many other people have to suffer because God allowed Satan to test Job? Why does God do what he does? The questions go on and on and on.

Job's responses to his wife were not rhetorical. He knew he must accept the good and bad that comes to him; he had no other choice. He only desired to know *why* things happened to him. Why did God behave the way he did?

Job's entire belief system came under attack. It had been natural for him to accept and enjoy prosperity because he believed he was righteous and God was giving him a proper reward. If that was true, why would God take it all away? Job knew in heart he was not more or less righteous from day to day. Obviously, God didn't behave according to Job's understanding, or Job didn't have enough information. Or...maybe God just didn't understand the facts, and Job needed to explain himself so God would change his behavior.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Read Genesis 2:1 in several different versions of the Bible. From just this one verse, do you conclude Satan is an angel or not? Why do you think the angels and Satan had to present themselves to the Lord?
2. In Job 2:9, what do you perceive the attitude of Job's wife to be? What religious attitude is she reflecting? What integrity was Job maintaining?
3. How long do you think it took for Job's three friends to hear about his troubles, communicate with each other, and travel to Job? It appears they were from different tribes, cities, or nations. Why would they make such a trip?

2. Her attitude reflected a view that God rewards the righteous and punished the wicked. If you act wicked enough, he will kill you. You might have just wanted Job's intense suffering to come to an end.

### Application Questions:

1. Considering Job 2:1, Satan thought Job's weakest spot was his health and comfort. What are your weak spots that Satan tends to attack?
2. Job 2:10 says Job did not sin in what he had said. How can you keep from sinning in what you say and how you say it?
3. How could you develop friendships with people as deep as the friendships Job had?
4. When you have severe disappointments in life, how do you react? Does somebody, even God, have to be responsible?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. According to Job 2:19, Job had three incredibly dedicated friends. How you could develop deeper friendships?
2. In Job 3, do you think Job is complaining about how God has treated him, or is he just lamenting the difficulties of life?
3. Job knew nothing about the conversations between God and Satan about him, nor about the testing that ensued. Think back about your latest disappointments in life. Do you think you truly understood the circumstances behind those things?