

## JOB: A FINAL REFLECTION

**Love:** How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?  
**Learn:** What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?  
**Share:** What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

**Monday August 8<sup>th</sup>** - Read Job 42:8, Numbers 23:1, 29; Ezekiel 45:23. The standard for sacrifice was the seven bulls and seven rams as an offering to God. What is different about God's instructions to Job's friends? Who is the offering for? Do you think we could do a better job when it comes to reconciliation with our friends when we have had a disagreement? While we no longer sacrifice animals, does forgiveness of one another take a sacrificial act? What do you think?

**Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>** - Read Job 42:8, Genesis 8:20, Job 1:5. What is different between the sacrifice at the beginning of the book of Job and the end? In the case where someone makes a sacrifice on behalf of someone else, what is the equivalent act in our day and time? How do we bring someone to God by sacrifice? Does the sacrifice of Christ on the cross take the place of a sacrifice done on behalf of someone else? Does the cross mean you can just pray for someone with the sacrifice done?

**Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>** - Read Job 42:8, Genesis 20:17, James 5:15-16, 1 John 5:16. Again the sacrifice makes the prayer-line open and Job prays for his friends. Someone in "good standing" prays on behalf of someone else. While it is always good to help someone via prayer, how might just praying with no other action be harmful? Should we expect a miracle of God without our own hands being busy?

**Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>** - Read Job 42:9, Genesis 19:21; Ezekiel 14:14. Job's friends make the sacrifice and God accepts Job's prayers because of Job's standing. Ezekiel teaches us that before Jesus a righteous person could only save themselves. If we are made righteous in Christ, what is the drive to live a good life? Why should we change and in what way can we really help others?

**Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>** - Read Job 42:10, Deuteronomy 30:3, Psalm 14:7. Today's theme is restoration. Each passage has great promises and celebrations of God restoring the fortunes and lives of those who were innocent and faithful. Does this suggest that if we are suffering we can be restored to health and wealth if we just remain steadfast? At what point can we shake our fist to heaven and say, "Well, if you had not taken it away in the first place, I wouldn't need it restored!" The book of Job has remained such a powerful portion of scripture for the Jewish people precisely because the journey of Job mirrored the journey of the Hebrew people coming out of exile.

**Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>** - Read Job 42:10, Psalm 85:1-3; Philippians 2:8-9, James 5:11. Perseverance is a theme that is appropriate for Job and today's Christian life. What ways can the book of Job help us today to address suffering? Can we use it to differentiate between suffering that can be eased or prevented and suffering that just happens by virtue of being human (i.e. tragedy, sickness, grief.)

**Serve:** Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

**Healing Strength:** Charlie Walters, Chris & Katie Hamon, Lanny Diana (Birdwell's brother-in-law), Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

**Sympathies:** Family of LeAnne Schemnaur

**Homebound Members:** Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman