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"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

God

"Meanwhile, where is God?...Go to him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. You may as well turn away...There are no lights in the windows.

It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once. And that seeming was as strong as this. What can this mean? Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?...

C.S. Lewis

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

Then the Lord asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil."

Satan replied to the Lord, "Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property.

You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!"

"All right, you may test him," the Lord said to Satan. "Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don't harm him physically." So Satan left the Lord's presence.

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship.

and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.

I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil."

"I cry out, 'Help!' but no one answers me. I protest, but there is no justice.

God has blocked my way so I cannot move. He has plunged my path into darkness.

He has stripped me of my honor and removed the crown from my head. He has demolished me on every side, and I am finished. He has uprooted my hope like a fallen tree.

His fury burns against me; he counts me as an enemy. His troops advance. They build up roads to attack me. They camp all around my tent.

His fury burns against me; he counts me as an enemy. His troops advance. They build up roads to attack me. They camp all around my tent.

"My relatives stay far away, and my friends have turned against me. My family is gone, and my close friends have forgotten me. "My complaint today is still a bitter one, and I try hard not to groan aloud.

If only I knew where to find God, I would go to his court.

Then I would listen to his reply and understand what he says to me.

Would he use his great power to argue with me? No, he would give me a fair hearing.

I go east, but he is not there. I go west, but I cannot find him. I do not see him in the north, for he is hidden. I look to the south, but he is concealed.

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

Then Job replied to the Lord:

"I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me.

You said, 'Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.'

I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.

I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."

Don't confuse life with God, and don't confuse the circumstances around you for how God feels about you.

God can handle the honesty about your pain and doubts.

When you're in the dark, claim God's promises, but don't expect an explanation.

When I can't see His hand, When I can't hear His voice, When I can't feel His presence... I will trust His heart.

God I believe you can, but I know you may not. Either way I'm choosing to trust you with the outcome.