

4/14/24 Christ Fellowship

What To Do When You Are Attacked – Job 1

By Joe Morgan's own account, war was the last thing he expected when he joined the Navy as a teenager. *"I joined up to see the world, not to fight a war. When the attack started, I was scared and looked for a place to hide."*

Joe Morgan was on Ford Island which is part of Pearl Harbor when the bombs started falling December 7, 1941. He ran into a hangar and found a huge I-beam to shelter himself from the fury of the bullets, bombs and explosions. While he was hiding, Morgan noticed some of his shipmates were out on the tarmac armed with nothing more than handguns, and shooting back at the aircraft roaring overhead.

"Here I was, a trained gunner hiding in an I-beam and I began to feel ashamed of myself. The shame overpowered my fear. I went into the armory and grabbed a machine gun to fight back." ([Joe Morgan - Pearl Harbor National Memorial \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#))

We are all grateful for men like Mr. Morgan who, despite being afraid, did fight back to protect the country they loved. That's part of why they are called the "Greatest Generation." I can't imagine any of them not being scared but they overcame their fear to do what needed to be done.

I've never been in combat like those great men and I hope none of us ever have to but we are definitely in a battle and the question today is, what are you going to do when you are attacked? How are you going to fight? What weapons will you use? Who will you fight and how will you know when the battle is over? Those are important questions and we need to know the answers to them and hopefully we will get those questions answered by the time this sermon series is over.

But what we need to learn today is the very first thing we have to do when we are attacked. We can't really answer all those other questions until we do the first thing first so let's look at the wonderful book of Job to get the answer. Job is an amazing book! It is a pool that a child can play in and a deep well that an elephant can drown in at the same time. The more you study it, the more you want to study it and the more you realize you need to study it.

Most of you know the gist of the story so we won't dwell on the details of what happened and why too much. To say Job was being attacked is an understatement. Probably nobody

in all the world has ever been attacked as much as Job which makes it the perfect military survival manual for those of us that want to be able to survive when we are attacked. So, let's jump right in and let's start after Job has really been attacked by Satan. Let's see his response to losing everything he had, all his possessions, all his money and even all ten of his children. All he is left with is a nagging wife and lots of questions. Let's pick it up in Job 1, verses 20-22. **Job 1:20-22** says, *“At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 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.” 22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.”*

This is satanic attack taken to the next level. But this is also next level response to attack as well. And I'm going to be honest here as I stand before the Christ Fellowship Army. This is for the Special Forces Operators. This is how the elite troops respond to attack. This is probably not going to be able to be done by all of you. I don't know where you all stand spiritually but for an unbeliever, this is absolutely impossible. For a baby Christian, they probably won't get it and an immature believer probably won't either. For those fresh out of boot camp or those content hiding in the barracks, you won't get this and that's understandable.

But the story of Job is all the more amazing when you understand that Job had no Bible. He had no prophet to speak to him. He had no church to go to to teach him. He had no vision of God or dreams by God to explain things. All Job had was faith. He could see with his eyes that there were things created and so he knew that he knew that he knew that there must be a Creator and that Creator was Jehovah God who created all and was in control of all and loved all. And that was enough. Job was Special Forces spiritual before there was a Special Forces program.

So, with all the pain and all the emotions and all the various responses piling up in his mind, Job did the thing he had to do to be able to get through this attack the best and that was worship. He didn't attack Satan. He didn't attack God. He didn't attack his wife or even the men who brought the bad news. He didn't lash out against anybody including himself. He knew before he could go into this battle, he first had to worship God.

So, that is the **“when”** of this situation. Let's look at the **why** and the **how**. To understand why, I want to ask the ladies a question. I don't think it applies as much to us guys but I bet the ladies will understand. Ladies, let's imagine that you are a newlywed and your husband does something wrong. He hurts your feelings. He doesn't think it's a big deal

and doesn't understand why you are making a big deal out of it. Who do you call? Your dad? No. You call your mom, right?

That may not be the case for everybody but I bet most of you call your moms. I've known some women who call their moms about everything. Got a question? Call mom. Got a problem? Call mom. Something bad happen? Call mom. Something good? Same. Why do you call your moms? Because they can relate. They know the answer and if they don't they can show you the sympathy you need. If you called dad, he would just tell you how to solve the problem. Oh, no, not that. You don't want that. You want sympathy. You want to tell the story. And mom wants to hear it. Dad doesn't.

Well, God may be our Heavenly Father, but He listens like mom. Job worshipped God when he was attacked because he knew that's where the wisdom was. He knew that's where the answers were. He knew that's where the comfort is and the peace. He knew that God was in control of the situation and so Job wanted to be right with the Commander. He knew that was the very first thing he needed to do. That's why Job worshipped.

When Job fell to the ground in worship, it was the very picture of **Semper Stantes**. Our motto during this series is Semper Stantes which means "Always Standing" which we get from **Ephesians 6** which talks about standing when the day of evil comes. And Job falling to the ground in worship is literally what that means. It's not physically standing. It is spiritually standing behind God, falling on our faces to worship Him so that we are not standing or attacking or using any weapon in our own power.

The "day of evil" came for Job and he correctly stood by falling down. It wasn't fake. It wasn't ginned up or half-hearted. He didn't see it as optional. He didn't say, "Well, you know if I feel like it, I'll worship." Or, "If the Cowboys don't play today, I'll worship." "Well, I was going to worship but the kids have a thing...you know." When Job was attacked by Satan, Job didn't hesitate because Job knew God. He knew God. He didn't just know of Him. Job had a relationship with God. That's why he worshipped.

Now, let's look at **how** Job worshipped. I hope you still have your Bibles open. There are three ways or three different aspects of Job's worship. Look at **verse 20** again. "*At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head.*" So, does that mean we have to do the same thing? No, of course not. Although for some of us that wouldn't be much of a big deal to do either one. But it was a big deal for Job.

In reading in other parts of the book, we see that Job is a wealthy man and an admired man. He was kind of a big deal in that part of the world. And while we aren't told what he was wearing, a man of such stature would wear clothes befitting his place in life. It was also customary for the older, more respected men to have fairly long hair and a nice, full beard. It was a sign of maturity and wisdom. And Job got rid of all that.

Because Job knew God, he knew who God was and who Job was and the huge chasm that is between them and so there is no place for pride. The first aspect of Job's worship was done **without pride**. He didn't care how he looked. He didn't care what the custom was or what traditions were. None of that mattered right now. Like Mary did in **John 12** when she let her hair down to wipe the feet of Jesus. That just wasn't done in those days. Letting your hair down in public was scandalous. But Mary didn't care. She was worshipping Jesus with everything she had and that was all that mattered. There was no pride in her.

I think we probably all are guilty of being a little prideful at times in our worship. Should I clap to the music? Should I raise my hands? Should I say "amen" here? What will people think? Who cares? Who cares what people think? If you are truly worshipping our Savior and not trying to be seen or making it about you at all, who cares what other people think? Yes, we ought to strive for excellence when we sing. We ought to want to give God our very best but not crossing the line of making it a performance for other people to hear.

That's why we say we don't have rules around here. Who are we to say you can't worship like you worship. I grew up in a church where that kind of thing wasn't really done but the older I get, the more I wish we had more dancing and more hollering and more getting excited as we worship. Lose yourself in the worship. But also remember that worship is not just done here at the church building. You can worship anywhere. So, if you see me driving down the road and I'm singing and crying and dancing as I drive, you just pray God keeps me safe. Otherwise mind ya own business. Because there is no pride in true worship.

So, Job worshipped **without pride** but as we see in **verse 21**, Job worshipped **with praise**.

Verse 21 says, "*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.***" Job is obviously not just praising God's name because he thinks it's a cool name or something. They considered your name to be the essence of who you were back in the day. It applied to all of you and for Job to say it in this way is encouraging the rest of the world to praise God as well. He didn't just say, "*I praise God.*" He is saying, "*Let's all praise God.*" "*...**may the name of the Lord be praised.***"

Casting Crowns has a song that we sing sometimes called “Praise You In This Storm” and one of the verses goes like this, *“As the thunder rolls
I barely hear You whisper through the rain
“I’m with you”
And as Your mercy falls
I’ll raise my hands
And praise the God who gives
And takes away”*

David said in **Psalm 27**, *“The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?”*

*3 Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.*

*5 For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.*

*6 Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.*

David understood what Job understood. Do you understand why and how we should praise God in our worship of Him when we are attacked? Now let’s look at the last aspect of Job’s worship. He worshipped **without pride**. He worshipped **with praise** and as we see in **verse 22**, Job worshipped **without sin**.

Verse 22 says, *“In all this, Job did not sin...”* So, is it a sin to be attacked? Of course not. So, where might Job have sinned in all this? It says, “Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.” The KJV says to charge God foolishly.

I think it’s fine to ask God why something happened to you. God is a big God and He can handle a respectful, even an intense conversation with Him. He never promises to answer

you though. He never really answered Job. But it's fine to ask Him. That's not a sin to respectfully ask God why something happens. The problem comes when you cross the line from asking why to accusing God of doing something wrong.

Let me ask you a question. Is there a difference between bad and wrong? Can something bad be good for you? Let me ask it this way. Was what happened to Job bad? Yes, of course it was. Was it wrong? Did God do something wrong by allowing this? God gave Satan permission to do all this. Was God wrong? I'll let scripture answer.

Romans 8:28 is a hugely popular verse but do you believe it? Do you believe that *“God works all things for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”*? God works what things? All things. Even the bad things. That's truth whether you believe it or not. It's true whether you feel it or not. It's true whether you want it to be true or not. It doesn't mean it doesn't hurt. It doesn't mean you deserve it. It doesn't mean it wasn't bad. It means that God sometimes allows bad things to happen to you for your good. And you may not, in fact, you probably will not see it anytime soon, maybe never. You may never see in your life how it was for your good that God allowed cancer to come into your life or for your spouse to leave or our kid to die. But just like with Job, God is in control and to not believe it is for your good is sin.

Now, like I said earlier, some of you just won't get this. You won't understand it. You won't believe it because you can't see it. You don't have the faith it takes to see how something bad can be for your good. So, let me give you an illustration.

Where's LilBit? Somebody hold her ears so she can't hear me. I've told y'all before that I really like to go fishing but my dogs loooooove to go fishing. I can't even say the word without them acting like freaks. So, we go fishing every chance we get, you know, for the dogs' sake. And they never ever want to leave. They just cannot understand why we have to leave the lake. And I try to explain to them that we haven't caught anything and we've been out here for seven hours but they don't care. They do not want to leave.

They can't understand why we don't just live at the lake. Why do we even have a house? Sell it and we can just live on the lake fishing all day and all night. That just makes sense to them. And when I tell them we have to go home, they just pout. They act like I'm abusing them. It's just awful.

My dogs are very smart. But there is a chasm of understanding between them and me. And I'm not the smartest guy around but they can't understand me. They feel like they are

being abused when I'm saying we have to go home. They don't understand it is for their good. We have to eat and sleep but they don't understand all that when we are fishing.

You know, sort of like how you can't understand why God would allow the tragedy to happen in your life. And like how Job didn't understand why God would allow the tragedy in his life. But Job knew that God is God and if Job could understand God, then He wouldn't be much of a God, would He? He knew that God is the Creator and the Redeemer and the Sustainer and the Deliverer. He knew God is sovereign and so Job knew he needed to worship. And so he worshipped without pride, with praise and without sin.

Let's spend a minute doing that right now. However God calls you to worship, just do that right now. Nobody else is watching you. Just go to God without any pride. There is nothing worthy in you to even be able to approach the Sovereign King of all kings. But by His grace, He tells you to come. Now just praise Him for who He is. Praise Him for His power and creativity and sovereignty. Now thank Him for what He has given you and even for what He has taken away. You don't have to understand Him. Just praise Him.

If you don't have a relationship with God through His Son Jesus, all you have to do is believe that Jesus paid the price on the cross that you should have paid. But He willingly gave His life so yours could be changed in this life and so you could have eternal life with Him in the next life. Do it right now as the music plays.