



Suffering Spouse or Terrible Temptress?

Lesson 6 • Job 2:7-10

Job's nameless wife is remembered for one thing:
What she **SAID** to her husband in his hardest trial.

- Job's wife appears on the scene as the **FIRST** person on earth to give Job advice in his suffering. (2:9)

- The next mention of Job's wife is by Job **HIMSELF** who says even his breath is offensive to his wife. (19:17)

"My breath is repulsive to my wife. I am rejected by my own family." NLT
"My wife can't stand to be around me anymore. I'm repulsive to my family." MSG

- The last information we have about Job's wife is that she apparently gave birth to **ANOTHER 10** children after Job is restored back to health. (42:10-13)
- It is easy to see Job's nameless wife as a **terrible temptress**, but many people claim she is only a **suffering spouse** that is misunderstood and too quickly judged!

The Greek translation (Septuagint / LXX) of the Book of Job has this extended explanation added to the text of 2:9:

"When a long time had passed, his wife said to him, How long will you hold out, saying, 'Behold, I wait yet a little while, expecting the hope of my deliverance?' for behold, your memorial is abolished from the earth, even your sons and daughters, the pangs and pains of my womb which I bore in vain with sorrows, and you yourself sit down to spend the night in the open air among the corruption of worms, and I am a wanderer and a servant from place to place and house to house, waiting for the setting sun, that I may rest from my labors and pains that now beset me, but say some word against the Lord and die."

Suffering Spouse or Terrible Temptress?

1. What She Said and When She Said It. (2:7-9)

- What she said was: Give **UP** and give **IN**!

1) Give up on the LORD: "Are you still holding firm to your integrity?" (Compare 2:3)

2) Give in to the Adversary: "Curse God and die!" (Compare 1:11; 2:5)

"The Devil's Advocate" ~Augustine
"A Tool of Satan" ~John Calvin
Spared by Satan to be a "Second Eve" ~Thomas Aquinas

His wife said to him, "Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die." NLT
His wife said, "Still holding on to your precious integrity, are you? Curse God and be done with it!" MSG

- What she said was **foolish**, but we need to consider **WHEN** she said it.

- What she said was **NOT TYPICAL** of her: "You talk as one of the foolish women"

2. The Lessons We Learn from Job's Wife.

"Foolish Talk" Means Much More Than Bad Advice:

It means talk that is morally **WRONG** versus morally right. *Proverbs 10:23; 14:16*

It means talk that **HATES** the truth versus loving truth. *Proverbs 1:7, 22*

It means talk that is **MAN**-centered versus God-centered. *Psalms 14:1; 53:1; Proverbs 12:15; 19:3; 28:26*

- It's foolish to use suffering as an **EXCUSE** for giving in.

"Do you still hold fast your integrity?"

*Since our lives are full of trials, we need to **remember** there are always more to come.*

Don't be **SURPRISED** by more suffering!

- It's foolish to use suffering as a **REASON** for giving up.

"Curse God and die!"

*Since our world is fallen, we need to **understand** that those who love us may give us bad advice.*

Don't be **FOOLED** by bad advice!

- It's foolish to let suffering **CAUSE** us to **forget** God's greatness and **forsake** His goodness.

"Should we receive good from God and not adversity?"

Since God's wisdom is sovereign, we should **prepare** ourselves for prosperity and adversity by fearing Him now.

Don't be **DISHEARTENED** by suffering!

Bottom-line: Some Questions Are Wise and Some Are Foolish!

The Adversary will tempt us with foolish questions to drive us to foolish conclusions that result in foolish actions.

The LORD will strengthen us with wise questions to drive us to wise conclusions that result in wise actions.

3. The Wisdom We Need with Spouses Who Suffer.

- Wisdom for Those with a Suffering Spouse (Especially Wives):

- 1) Always **GUARD** your words when your spouse is going through terribly hard times.
- 2) Never **SUGGEST** your spouse compromise his or her integrity, even if it will bring temporary relief.
- 3) Always **KEEP** your vows for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health.

- Wisdom for Spouses Who Are Suffering (Especially Husbands):

- 1) **LISTEN** well and then speak the truth in love to your spouse.
- 2) **SHARE** with your spouse what you are learning about Jesus in good times and in bad times with much grace.
- 3) **MAINTAIN** your integrity at all costs in the midst of suffering.
- 4) **ACCEPT** your spouse where they are but love them too much to leave them there.

Suffering Spouse or Terrible Temptress...or Both?

Job's wife was a suffering spouse whose lack of wisdom led her to become a terrible temptress to her husband in the midst of his suffering and hers.

Choosing to let God's wisdom shape our hearts and our relationships today will in large measure determine whether or not we play the fool when suffering comes to our relationships.