



## 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.