

FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

The Test

Life is a test. You only get one grade, PASS or FAIL, like it was when I went to Kindergarten. I'm not sure how grading works in Kindergarten these days...

I think of life as a test mainly because of the Book of Job. In this largely ignored and misunderstood book of the Bible, it begins with a host of angels presenting themselves before the Lord. We don't understand exactly why, but we do know that angels are God's servants. Perhaps they are answering to God for what they've been doing.

We may find it unusual that Satan is there as well. It's not unusual. Though he has been kicked out of heaven, Satan still answers to God. And it's God who opens the dialogue with Satan in Job 1:7, when He says,

The Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

Then a very strange thing happens. God draws Satan's attention to Job. Verse eight says,

The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

Why would God do this? Why would He point out Job to Satan? It's because life is a test and Job's great testing moment has arrived. Few face testing to the extent of Job, but we all face testing.

And Satan, full of false confidence as he always is, challenges God's high estimation of Job's character, verses nine through eleven –

Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face."

Satan's argument to God is that Job is only faithful because God has caused him to prosper. This may be true of some who *claim* to belong to God but never truly have, but this can never be true of one who truly belongs to God.

God then accepts Satan's challenge and replies in verse twelve –

"Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.

(continued)

In the next verses of Job Chapter 1, we read of Satan taking away all of Job's wealth and killing Job's children in what appears to be a weather event, but is actually the work of Satan.

Job's response? Vs 21 –

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Job passed the test. In the greatest example of tragedy that we can imagine, Job proves that true faith cannot be broken.

Satan, with too much pride to concede he was wrong, says to God in Job 2:4-6 -

"Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." So the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."

After Satan afflicts Job's body from head to toe, Job's wife says in verse nine –

"Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"

In other words, she was saying to Job, God obviously doesn't love you anymore. If you will simply curse God, He may kill you and put you out of your misery! She saying, "Why are you remaining faithful?"

His response? Vs 10 –

But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

If this is intriguing to you, I would challenge you to study the whole Book of Job and not draw uneducated and unenlightened conclusions based upon the very small amount that I have shared from that Book in this article.

The Book of Job is very close, if it is not, my favorite book of the Bible. Why? Because of the major takeaway that I get from it – Life is a test. Just like Job, I don't know when I'm being tested or exactly in what manner I'm being tested, so in light of this, I try to treat all of life as a test.

Full disclosure – I've failed more than I've passed. Looking back on my life there are so many times I wish I would have kept my mouth closed and not spoken hastily in anger. There are things that I've done that I wish I could take back. There are things I have thought that I wish I never would have entertained in my mind. (continued)

PRAYER LIST

Leon Shoemaker—had complete shoulder replacement surgery on Wednesday and is home recovering. You can send him a card to his address at 1252 NW 138th St., Edmond, OK 73013

Russell Day—was moved to Larksfield Place Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Wichita. The address there is 2828 N Gouverneur St., Wichita, KS 67226

Shirley Stoner—fell and fractured her left fibula. She is in a boot and doing okay. She will have more x-rays next this Friday. She would love to receive cards and phone calls.

Kendall Brundage—continues to recover from a couple of falls.

Hailee Moyer—daughter of Maria Moyer and granddaughter of Marsha Dugan, was in a bad car accident and needs prayers for healing. She is waiting to get into a long term rehab facility. She still has a long recovery path and needs prayers. She would love Christmas cards and cards of encouragement.

Melinda Miller—wife of Chris Miller, saw her doctor and was given the good news that she is cancer free! She has a few tests and some radiation ahead for her. Keep the prayers coming!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Kelley—1st

Lyndsey Turney—2nd

Tom Norris—4th

Levi Turney—17th

Danny Clark—18th

Ashley Colwell—21st

Arlis Day—24th

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

January

Jan 31 Darlene Cooney

February

Feb 07 Helen Norris

Feb 14 Lynette Turney

Feb 21 Linda Wartick

Feb 28 Kaylee Jenkins

Above all else, I want to prove to be faithful as Job proved to be faithful. I want to decide in my heart before tragedy strikes, how I will respond. Like Peter, I want to learn from my mistakes and through those experiences become stronger.

Are we being tested now? We're *always* being tested in one way or another. Trust God. Cling to Him. Prove Satan wrong. Prove to Satan and all who despise the Lord that nothing can break your faith. Prove that you will follow Jesus no matter what. Prove that you don't follow only when everything goes your way. Pass the test. There are no percentages. It's PASS or FAIL.

Much love!

Wes LeFlore (918) 607-8489 or huskerwes1@gmail.com



**The Advanced Lessons,
Part 2: Citizenship**
Matthew 17:22-27

The Reminder, _____

The Journey, _____

The Trap, _____

The Mind, _____

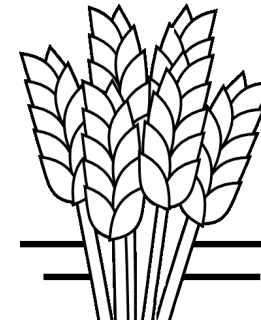
The Lesson, _____

Notes:

THOSE WHO SERVE

SUNDAY A.M.	31-Jan 2021	07-Feb 2021	14-Feb 2021
Elder in Charge	R. Harris	M. Kline	M. Kline
Opening Prayer	J. DeJarnett	L. Turney	K. Dodds
Song Leader	K. Dodds	R. Harris	R. Harris
Communion Prayer	M. Kline	E. Newberry	T. Norris
Contribution Prayer & Collection	N. Bradbury P. Dodds	A. Shields J. Willson	A. Shields J. Willson
Ushers	J. Rayl J. Church	D. Carroll L. Helton	D. Carroll L. Helton
Closing Prayer	R. Harris	M. Kline	M. Kline
Deacon in Charge	K. Dodds	A. Hines	A. Hines
SUNDAY A.M.	21-Feb 2021	28-Feb 2021	
Elder in Charge	M. Kline	M. Kline	
Opening Prayer	T. Norris	E. Newberry	
Song Leader	R. Harris	R. Harris	
Communion Prayer	R. Harris	M. Kline	
Contribution Prayer & Collection	A. Shields J. Willson	A. Shields J. Willson	
Ushers	D. Carroll L. Helton	D. Carroll L. Helton	
Closing Prayer	M. Kline	M. Kline	
Deacon in Charge	A. Hines	A. Hines	

Note concerning COVID-19: We are now requiring adults to wear masks in services, unless performing a public speaking role in the service or partaking of communion. If you have a medical limitation, we are not asking you to wear a mask and disregard that limitation. We also ask anyone who is subject to quarantine to abide by those recommendations. If you have a cough or are feeling ill, please do not attend services in person. By taking these measures, we believe we can respond to Paul's instructions in Philippians 2, where he wrote—*“do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”*



*“Reaching Inward, Outward
Upward, Downward”*

**Wellington
Church of Christ**

217 W. 13th St. Wellington, KS 67152 620-326-7511

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 31, 2021

Call to Worship

Prayer

Song #753 “Farther Along”

Song #711 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Song #383 “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Communion Prayers

Contribution Prayer

Contribution Collection

Lesson

Song #912 “Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary”

Closing Prayer

ELDERS		DEACONS	
Rex Harris	Marvin Kline	Kevin Dodds	Aaron Hines
Ed Newberry	Tom Norris	Leroy Lewis	Mike Neal
		David Pierce	Alan Shields
MINISTER			
Wes LeFlore			