

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

August 12, 2007

The patience of Job

by David King

"Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful" (Jas. 5:11).

The Old Testament story of Job is a timeless lesson on how to deal with suffering. The story does not address the metaphysical question of **why** good people suffer; rather, it explores the practical issue of how Job held on to his faith, when he had no apparent reason to do so. Here is a man who lost everything in a series of horrible catastrophes, yet somehow managed to maintain his faith in God's essential goodness. Throughout history, Job has been the standard against which every example of patience is measured.

The great lesson for us, of course, is the importance of imitating that stubborn determination to do the right thing in the face of trying circumstances. Unfortunately, we have trouble separating the **lesson** of Job from the **story** of Job. We like to think that if we ever encountered spectacular tragedies in our life, like Job did, we would bear up under them stoically, just as Job did. Of course, we never get to know how we would deal with such tragedies, because few of us ever face them. So the patience of Job becomes an interesting topic for "what if" speculations, something that has little bearing on our everyday life.

But if that's how we're looking at the story of Job, we're not getting the message.

The patience of Job is an attribute that every one of us has opportunity to practice vir-

tually every day of our lives. It's not the **depth** of the suffering that matters—it's how we allow suffering to affect our attitudes and behaviors, even in the smallest frustrations and disappointments of life.

Husbands and wives, for example, need the patience of Job in learning to tolerate each other's flaws and idiosyncrasies. Couples who stay married an entire lifetime are not any more compatible than other couples; they've just learned how to be patient with each other.

Parents learn early that patience is a critical ingredient in raising their kids. Children come into this world without a clue about life, and it's up to Mom and Dad to teach them. That's hard to do when it seems the lessons just don't "stick."

Then there are all the financial problems that beset us, the health issues, the flat tires and fender-benders, the broken appliances. Look beyond the home and the problems mount. We have to deal with our co-workers and customers, with our neighbors, with our friends, our brethren, our relatives, our school-mates, the government, even the weather. Pile all these things together in an average, ordinary life, and it's no wonder that so many of us are cranky and hard to get along with.

What we need is the patience of Job. We must master the art of uncoupling our internal happiness from our external circumstances. Like Job, we must learn that no matter what life throws at us, our best strategy is to patiently keep on doing the right thing, and let God deal with those things we cannot control.