

Dr. John Walton, Job, Session 29 – Podcast

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All right, get ready, because this deep dive might leave you with some pretty big questions rolling around in your head. Sounds intriguing.

Yeah. So we're going to be looking at the Book of Job. Oh.

Okay. Specifically, an excerpt from one of Dr. John Walton's teachings, session 29, I think it is. Okay.

It's called The Message of the Book of Job. Right. And basically, what we're going to try to do is we're going to try to figure out what the core message of this old, old text is.

And see if maybe there's some relevance for us, you know, in the here and now. Right. Right.

I mean, why do we suffer? Like, how should we relate to God when things are painful, when things are hard? And like, is there even such a thing as serving God just because? Yeah. Not because we get something out of it, but just because the Book of Job. I mean, that's one of those books that never really, I don't know, goes out of style, does it? Never.

It just keeps coming back. And every time you read it, it's like you're reading it again for the first time. Totally.

And Dr. Walton, he kind of just jumps right in, right? Yeah. And he points out that, like the Book of Job, it never really answers the question of why Job suffered. It doesn't.

And he even suggests that maybe there isn't even a specific reason, which honestly kind of freaks me out a little. Well, it does go against our natural instinct as humans, I think, right? We like to think that there's a cause for every effect. Totally.

Everything's nice and tidy. Makes sense. But Job just throws that out the window, doesn't it? It really does.

It says sometimes things just happen. Yeah. So it's not like some big test from the universe or like punishment for something we did.

It could just be... It could just be bad luck. Bad luck. Yeah.

Man, that's tough. It is tough. I know plenty of people who would have a hard time swallowing that.

Yeah, absolutely. It really challenges that need we all have to control things, to understand things. But it's so interesting because when you let go of that need for a reason, you're forced to face this deeper truth.

What do you mean? Well, if suffering isn't always a direct result of something we did, then we have to ask some really, really difficult questions. Like what? About the nature of God, about good and evil, about existence itself. Whoa.

Okay, that's getting deep. It is. So, okay.

So if we're not supposed to look for a specific reason for suffering, what are we supposed to do with it? Well, that's where this idea of, and it's a mouthful, disinterested righteousness comes in. Okay. Disinterested righteousness.

What's that all about? So Dr. Walton is arguing that the Book of Job is pushing us toward a different way of relating to God. It's not about rewards and punishments anymore. It's not.

It's about serving God simply because he is God. I get that. But also, I mean, isn't it kind of human nature to want something back for our actions? Even just like in everyday life, as we work, we get paid, we exercise, we get healthier.

Right. How do we square that with like serving God and not expecting anything in return? That's a really great question. And I think that's one of the reasons that Job is such a hard book for us to wrap our heads around.

Yeah, I think so too. It does go against everything that comes naturally to us. But think about it this way.

You know how you can love someone just because unconditionally; you don't do it because you expect something back from them. You do it because you genuinely care. Right.

Yeah. It's kind of like that. Okay.

Okay. I see the analogy, but I mean, that sounds so hard. It is.

Almost impossible. Right. Right.

Like we're talking saint-level stuff here. Sure. Is that what Dr. Walton thinks we should all be striving for? I don't think it's about being perfect.

Not about being completely selfless. It's more about recognizing that our relationship with God, it's different from any other relationship we have. It's not a transaction.

It's not. We're not keeping score. Right.

It's about surrendering to something that's bigger than us, wiser than us. That's an interesting way to look at it. So it's less about trying to figure God out and more about just trusting him.

Exactly. Even when we don't get why things are happening. Even when it's hard.

Even when it's hard. You know, that's actually a theme that runs all through the book of Job, doesn't it? He complains. He questions.

He even yells at God. Oh, yeah. But at the end of the day, he never actually rejects God.

Never gives up on him. He clings to that trust even when everything else has been taken away. Yeah.

I mean, it makes me think of that saying, trust the journey even when you don't understand the path. Oh, yeah. That's a good one.

Right. So speaking of trusting the journey, Dr. Walton talks about Abraham and his willingness to sacrifice Isaac. And wow.

I mean, if that's not a test of faith, I don't know what is. I talk about an extreme example of obedience. Yeah.

Abraham could have lost everything. His son, his legacy, everything. And yet he was still willing to obey God.

And what's even more remarkable is that God sees that. God sees it. And he acknowledges it.

Wow. So it's like God saying, hey, I know this is tough. I see you trusting me even though it hurts.

Right. I don't know if I could be that strong. It's a humbling thought, isn't it? It is.

But remember, this book, it's not giving us a rule book. It's not. It's not a checklist to get to some kind of spiritual perfection.

Okay. So what is it then? It's an invitation to grapple with these big questions, you know. Yeah.

To dig deeper into who God is and who we are. So it's more about the journey than the destination. Exactly.

It's about being willing to struggle, to question, to doubt even, and then finding our way back to a place of trust. Okay. I see the bigger picture, I think.

But this whole disinterested righteousness thing, it's still a tough one. It is. How do we actually live that out? How do we put that into practice? I think it starts with looking at ourselves, honestly, you know.

What do you mean? Why do we do what we do? Are we chasing after rewards, looking for recognition, trying to get ahead? Or is there something deeper driving us? A genuine desire to serve God, to serve others no matter what we get out of it. You know what? I think a lot of people would benefit from asking themselves that very question. I think so too.

Maybe that's the real takeaway from the Book of Job. Maybe it is. It's not about easy answers when it comes to suffering.

No. It's about learning to ask better questions about our own hearts and how we relate to God. You've got it.

Wow, this deep dive is getting pretty deep. It is, isn't it? I have a feeling we're just getting started. Oh, absolutely.

We've got a lot more to unpack here. In the next part, we're going to delve deeper into Dr. Walton's analysis, look at some of the key themes, and the insights he offers. And we're also going to explore how all of this applies to our lives today.

How we can use Job's message to deal with the tough stuff, the complexities of faith and suffering. Sounds good. Stay tuned.

All right. So we're back and, man, we are going deep on the Book of Job. Yeah, we are.

This whole disinterested righteousness thing. It's a tough one. It's really got me thinking.

Yeah. It's such a radical concept. It is.

And honestly, kind of intimidating. It definitely challenges how we usually think about faith, right? Right. We're so used to this whole idea of like rewards and punishments.

Yeah. Do good things, get good things. Thumbs up, get punished.

But Job seems to be saying, hey, our relationship with God, it's bigger than that. It's like next-level faith or something. Yeah.

Maybe it's more like spiritual maturity. OK. Like it's not about becoming some kind of perfect, selfless being overnight.

Right. It's more about, I don't know, gradually changing how we see things. So instead of always asking, what's in it for me? Exactly.

We start asking. How can I serve? What does it mean to love God just because he's God, not because of what I can get? And if we change our perspective like that, wouldn't that lead to, like, you know, like a deeper trust in God? Exactly. Because we're not so focused on what we want.

We're more open to just letting God lead when it doesn't make sense to us. When we let go of the need to control everything. Right.

That's when trust can really grow. And that's where the strength comes from, right? Especially when things are tough. Absolutely.

You know, it strikes me that this isn't just a Book of Job thing. It's like a, I don't know, a human thing. Right.

You see it in the lives of so many amazing people throughout history. People who went through incredibly difficult times. Yeah.

But their faith, it wasn't destroyed. It was strengthened by it. Refined.

Refined. Yeah. It's kind of a paradox, isn't it? It is.

Sometimes it's the darkest moments that bring out the most strength, the most resilience in us. Yeah. It all goes back to trusting the journey, right? Exactly.

Not trying to avoid the hard parts, but facing them head-on, knowing that we're not alone. And that's the beautiful thing about Job. It doesn't give us easy answers.

Nope. It doesn't sugarcoat things. Right.

It throws us right into the mess of being human. The grief, the anger, the doubt. Yeah.

It tells us it's okay to question, to struggle with God, to cry out in pain. It's like, it's giving us permission to just be human. Yeah.

With all our flaws and weaknesses. Exactly. It's like, you don't have to have it all figured out.

Just keep searching, keep trusting, keep moving forward. Love that. It's about embracing the journey, the ups and downs, and knowing that in the end, we're held by a God who gets it.

Who understands our struggles better than we ever could. You know, it's funny. We talk about trusting God, but how much will we really let go? Mm-hmm.

It's so easy to fall back into that need to control. We think we're in charge of our own lives. Right.

Make our own plans, get the outcomes we want. But Job throws a wrench in all that, doesn't it? Yeah. Reminds us that we're not the only ones that are struggling.

We're not the ones calling the shots. And maybe there's actually freedom in that surrender. Oh, absolutely.

Admitting that we don't have all the answers. Letting something bigger lead the way. There's such a beautiful humility in recognizing our own limitations.

Mm-hmm. It doesn't make us less. It opens us up to a whole new way of living.

A whole new way of relating to God. Okay. So how do we apply this to our everyday lives? How do we cultivate this trust, this disinterested righteousness? I think it starts small.

Okay. Pay attention to why you're doing the things you do. Are you trying to impress someone? Get something out of it? Or are you acting out of a deeper sense of purpose, a genuine desire to serve and to love? Like checking our internal compass, making sure we're headed in the right direction.

Yeah, exactly. And if we're off course, we adjust. We get back on track, realign our actions with our values.

It's not about being perfect. It's about progress. Exactly.

Recognizing when we're acting selfishly and making a choice to focus on something bigger. We've covered so much in this deep dive, but it feels like we've only just scratched the surface of Job. Oh, for sure.

This is a book that you could study for your whole life and every time you come back to it, you'd find something new. Absolutely. It's a text that's full of wisdom and insight, and it speaks to the deepest parts of us.

To the core of what it means to be human. And I think its message is more relevant today than ever before. I agree.

So as we wrap this up, I want to leave us with one last thought. Okay. We talked about the struggles of suffering, the importance of trusting, and the power of this disinterested righteousness.

But in the end, Job is about going deeper with God. He is. A relationship that's not based on fear or obligation, but on love.

Love. And that unshakable belief that even when things are really, really hard, we are not alone. Beautifully said.

When you're struggling with your day, your week, your life, remember that even when you don't understand, you are loved. You are held. And you're guided by a God who sees you, knows you, and walks with you every step of the way.

This has been a truly enriching deep dive. It has. I hope it's sparked something in you, a desire to explore Job further, to really wrestle with its timeless message.

Absolutely. Until next time, God bless. Even when I can't see it.

That's it. And that takes a leap of faith. It does.

Even when we're scared. Even when we're terrified. And that, I guess, goes back to this whole disinterested righteousness thing.

It does. Serving God, not for the reward, but just, I don't know. Out of love, out of devotion.

Just because he's God. Exactly. Disinterested righteousness, it's not about earning points or avoiding punishment.

Right, right. It's about our hearts being in line with God's heart. Okay.

Wanting what he wants. Trusting that he knows what's best, even when it hurts. You know, it's interesting.

We talk about trusting God. But how often do we really, truly let go? It's so hard, isn't it? We like to think we're in control, that we're running the show.

Like, make our plans. Right, have our five-year plan or ten-year plan. Like, we've got it all figured out.

But Job, it kind of blows all that up, doesn't it? It does. It reminds us that we're not really in charge. Not ultimately, no.

And maybe, just maybe, there's freedom in that. Oh, I think there is. In surrendering, in admitting that we don't have all the answers.

Letting something bigger than us take the lead. It takes humility, doesn't it? To admit that we don't know it all. It does, but it's not a weakness.

It's an opening, a way to experience life and God in a whole new way. So, practically speaking, what does all this mean for, you know, facing challenges? Mm-hmm. How do we cultivate that trust, that disinterested righteousness in our everyday lives? Well, I think it starts with paying attention.

To what? To your motivations. Why are you doing what you're doing? Are you looking for approval? Recognition. Trying to get ahead? Or are you acting from a place of, I don't know, genuine purpose? A real desire to serve, to love.

It's like, you know, checking your compass. Making sure we're on the right path. Exactly.

If you find yourself veering off course... You adjust, you get back on track, you realign your actions with what you truly value. It's not about being perfect. It's about, I don't know, trying, making progress.

It is. Recognizing when we're being selfish and choosing to focus on something bigger. Yeah.

Man, we've covered a lot of ground in this deep dive. But it feels like we've only just scratched the surface of Job. The Book of Job, it's a well that you can keep drawing from.

You can study it your whole life and still keep finding new layers of meaning. It's a book full of wisdom, full of insight, and it speaks to, like, the deepest parts of who we are. It does.

It really does. I think, honestly, I think its message is more relevant today than ever before. I agree.

So as we wrap things up, I want to leave our listeners with this. We've talked about the tough stuff. Suffering, trust, this whole disinterested righteousness thing.

But at the end of the day, Job is about going deeper with God. It is. It's about a relationship that's not built on fear, not built on obligation, but on love.

Yeah, love. On surrender, on that unshakable belief that even when things are at their absolute worst, we are not alone. Beautifully said.

And I hope that's what everyone listening takes away from this. You too. As you go through your day, your week, your life, remember, even when you don't understand, you are loved, you are held, and you are guided by a God who sees you, who knows you, and who walks with you every step of the way.

That's a beautiful message to end on. It is. And I think it's a message that we all need to hear.

I agree. So thank you for joining us on this deep dive into the book of Job. It's been a pleasure.

It's been an incredible journey, and I hope it's inspired you to keep exploring, keep asking questions, and keep seeking that deeper connection with God. Absolutely. And until next time, keep the conversation going.