

Humble Obedience

What's It All About?

Fletcher was amazed at the strength of the storm. Lightning streaks lit the night sky. Thunder rumbled, making his house seem to shake. The whistling wind made trees groan and creak. From under his blanket, Fletcher felt some fear. However, he held onto his faith that God was still in charge and nothing could happen outside of His purpose and plan.

When the sun rose, Fletcher joined his parents and neighbors outside to see what the storm had done. Fortunately, nobody had been hurt. However, lots of

things had been damaged. Several windows, including some in his home, had been blown away. His friend Aniya's house had a crumbled wall from a fallen tree. Another neighbor, Ms. Crawley had a missing roof.

Fletcher was excited to hear that a local celebrity had announced she would be donating money to help the neighborhood rebuild. Fletcher grinned as his family was given a check for \$1,000. His smile dropped when he learned Aniya's family and his neighbor Ms. Crawley had been given checks for \$10,000 each.

"Fletcher, why are you upset?" His mother could see his concern.

"It's not fair that Aniya's family and Ms. Crawley got so much more money than us."

"You think it's unfair, but is it just?" His mother pointed to their repaired living room windows, then to their neighbor's homes. Aniya's house still had a crumbled wall and blue tarp covered Ms. Crawley's home in place of a roof.

"They lost more and had more damage," his mom said. "Yes, it's just for them to get more money. All of us will have our houses repaired, but they needed more help." Fletcher's smile returned and he thanked God for helping them all.

Is justice always fair and is fairness always just? Explain.



Learning From God

Job has survived the biggest tests and trials of his life. Though he had questioned God, Job's faith and willingness to worship remained steadfast. God honored Job's obedience by restoring what he had lost.

Job 42:1–6, 10–17, NIV—Then Job replied to the LORD: 2 "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 3 You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 4 "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' 5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I

despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." 10 After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. 11 All his brothers and sisters and everyone who

had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring. 12 The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. 13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters. 14 The first daughter he named lemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. 15 Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers. 16 After this, lob lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. 17 And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

What I Have Learned

The Lord blessed Job with twice as much as he had before (v. 10). Use the Scripture passage to fill in the numbers with which Job was restored.

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1.	sheep

- 2. _____camels
- 3. _____yoke of oxen
- 4. _____donkeys
- 5. _____children

Keep In Mind

"You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know" (Job 42:3, NIV).

Choosing What's Best

Going through tough times can lead us to learn lessons and see things in a new light. Consider a challenge you faced this past week. What lessons did you learn? What do you see differently now? Reflect on Job's story. Write down three positive insights you've gained from your problems. Use the space below to share.

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Doing My Part

While we acknowledge the lessons learned from trials, it's also okay to acknowledge how we feel going through them. Feelings are not wrong, but how we respond to them can be consequential. When we are stressed or angry, we can find help by taking deep breaths and meditating on a helpful Scripture. Use a concordance or internet search to find one Bible verse that speaks to you about managing a negative emotion you frequently experience (e.g., fear, anger, sadness, or worry). Write down the verse in the space below. Spend some time each day this week taking slow, deep breaths and meditating on the Scripture you chose.

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