

## “Job – Tear down, build up!”

I want to share MY Cliff Note’s version of a very old story that relates to the liturgical season that we are soon to embark upon. This is my version, so it will surely lack the depth and beauty you would find if you actually read it yourself. But here we go:



Deep in the Old Testament you may stumble upon the book of Job. Job was a very fortune man with seven sons and three daughters. Knowing that his children were privileged and liked to party, he made it a point to always pray for them and ask God’s pardon in case they did something to offend God. He owned seven thousand sheep and three thousand camels, at least a thousand oxen and five hundred she-donkeys with enough servants and employees to take care of his affairs. The bible tells us that “he was greater than anyone in the East” (1:3). Job was a very wealthy and powerful man, the likes of Donald Trump or Bill Gates today. Then, as now, a lot of people who achieve such status think they are responsible for their own greatness, forget about God and take all credit for all their own achievement. We often see that today in sports or in Hollywood when someone like Charley Sheen becomes a bit full of himself then get’s a very public smack down.

Job was a righteous man. One day the evil one approached God regarding him and complained that the only reason he was faithful was because God lavished him with whatever he wanted. He said that Job’s faith was just as shallow as any other man and that if God would take away some of his success he too would turn against God like other less fortunate men of the world. God, knowing the heart of his servant gave permission to the evil one to put Job to the test. And that’s exactly what happened; the enemy made Job’s life miserable.

In one fell swoop the servants of the evil one stole all of Job’s livestock, killed or kidnapped his servants and killed all of his children. It was a bad day for Job and he was deeply saddened but he kept faith in God. How did Job respond to this?

***“Then Job arose and tore his cloak and cut off his hair. He fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, “Naked I came forth from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I go back there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD!” In all this Job did not sin, nor did he charge God with wrong.” – Job 1:20-22***



This is how Job responded to the first attack that the enemy hit him with, there would be more to follow. Even his wife and friends gave him bad advice when they told him to take the easy way out and curse God. The rest of the story is about Job working through the devil’s tests. One of the great reasons Job is in the Old Testament is to give us a pattern to live our lives by. After he lost everything Job immediately

