

Life's not fair – Growth Group Study
John Malcolm 27/6/21

If the story of your life was to be written for future generations to learn from, would it be written as:

- 1) an encouragement to others as a way of life to follow
- 2) a warning, don't follow this path through life

What do we learn about God's intention for humanity from Genesis 1.31 & 2.15

How do the following contribute to life being unfair (Can you give examples)?

- The fall of humanity (Gen 3)
- The spiritual enemy (Eph 6.12)
- The brokenness of creation (Rom 8. 19-22)
- Sinful actions (Gal 5.19-21)

Read Job 1.1

- What does this tell us about Job's character and actions?
- How would you expand of these ideas to help develop the authors meaning?
blameless and upright
Godfearing and shunning evil

Which other bible characters might share these characteristics?

Can you think of people from recent history who might have these characteristics?

How might such people benefit the community they lived in?

Christopher Ash highlighted an old Jewish adage, "*his 'within' was like his 'without.'*" What do you think this means?

Read Job 1.3

How is Job's wealth described in these verses?

How does the author summarise the combination of Job's character and wealth?

John Walton writes, *Everything about Job is ideal, which has the purpose of portraying him as the ultimate example of a person who is beyond reproach and who has achieved success by the highest standards.*

Do you think people like Job are rare or common? Explain your reasoning

Given his godly character and the extent of assets no one would imagine the devastation that would befall Job. Job is exemplary in all aspects of his life and this is what makes the extent of his suffering seem so unfair.

Read Job 21.7-9 & 14-15

What is the problem Job is describing in these verses?

Is this also a modern-day problem? Can you give any examples of this?

Life is unfair, fickle, unpredictable:

Recently a tornado struck one of the poorer suburbs of Auckland

Recently very ill patients in the Waikato had their treatment interrupted by a ransomware attack on the DHB's computers

How might the people who have been affected by these events feel life is unfair?

(Perhaps you have an example from your experience of something unfair – was this caused by your own actions, the actions of others, an act of nature?) – Share if appropriate.

John pondered the difference it would make if instead of the most godly man Job, God had highlight the life of his “brother” Bob a lackadaisical half-hearted follower of God.

Why is it important that the man who was tested was the “most godly man”?

How does the testing of this “ideal” man serve as a “type” of Christ figure?

Read Matthew 4.1-11

John underlined, Jesus was not simply blameless, like Job, more than this Jesus was sinless.

How does Satan tempt Jesus, and what would have happened if Satan had succeeded with these temptations?

Read Matthew 27:46

What do you think was the difference between Job's experience of God when suffering and that of Jesus?

What light does Jesus' suffering in our place throw on the suffering of Job?