

Job is an interesting story about, well, Job! He had a **lot**. He had ten children, 11,000 livestock, and a heart that feared the Lord. To put it into perspective—picture someone with a beautiful home, a large family, an abundance of money, a heart for God, and, to top it off, they are adored by their community! In some regards, a lot of us probably felt like Job a few weeks ago. Yeah, maybe a few things weren't quite right..but overall, we felt pretty good! Things are warming up, the sun is coming out, spring break is around the corner... not bad at all! As you were putting finishing touches on spring break plans, COVID-19 was making its way to the United States. Once it hit, we lost sight of almost everything. When will school be back in session? Can you still travel to x,y,z for spring break? What does this mean for your college siblings? What does it mean for spring sports? There were...and are...a lot of questions buzzing in the world right now. This virus is a little unpredictable and, if we are honest, we are all at a loss for knowing how to handle it.

Jump back with me to the story of Job. At the beginning of the book, we find out that Job has it going on; finances, family, character, the works. If you continue to read, you will find that the Lord gives Satan permission to test Job. Satan attacks Job's children, his property, and, even, his health. At the end of these trials Job is weary. After Job is done complaining and questioning God, He responds. For those of you that think God is only sweet and gentle, turn to Job 38 and you will see another side of Him. In His just anger, He responds to Job. I encourage you to read the whole chapter but it boils down to this, "Who are you to question me?" Once God is done speaking, Job repents for questioning God's control. The book ends with the Lord restoring Job's fortune. The Lord gives him 22,000 livestock (*doubling* his wealth), ten children, and Job goes on to live a long, full life.

I share this story because, in this moment of uncertainty, our desire is to run to concrete facts and answers. While it is so important to stay up to date on how to stay safe and keep others safe, don't start to think, even for a second, that this is out of God's hands. The Lord is above **all**! The only thing you need to cling to right now is this; the Lord can give, He can take away, He can give again. He is beyond this virus, the school schedule, your social circle, and your health. The temptation will be to run to articles, facts, rumors, or, try to figure it out on your own, but that is not where you will find peace. I want to encourage you that the Lord is *as in* control today as He was before we knew what COVID-19 was. You are *as out of control* as you were two weeks ago (when you thought you had a plan). This time off from school and people is a gift that we will likely never have again. What an opportunity to sit before the Lord and recognize *who* He is, recognize His sheer power and control. If you are a Christ-follower, the even sweeter news is that the Lord reigns, not only, over COVID-19 but over sin and death. Ultimately, He has defeated sin and death and promises LIFE to those that follow Him!

To read..

Job 38

What does this dialogue tell you about *who* God is?

Job 42:1-6

How can you relate to Job's response?

Job 42:10-17

How can you practice surrendering your "control" the next couple of weeks?