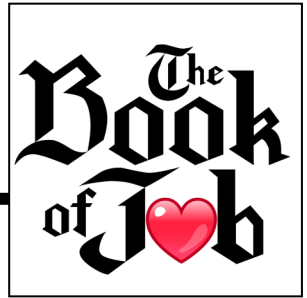




A Valentine's Day Moment from...Job?



The book of Job is an unlikely book of the Bible to find a Valentine's Day message: But it's there, tucked in just before all the tragedies that made Job's name synonymous with tragedy.

DIGGING IN

As you read the passage below, underline anything that describes Job and his family. Then circle anything that describes Job's persona or his actions toward his family.

Job 1:1-5 (NIV)

¹ In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. ² He had seven sons and three daughters, ³ and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. ⁴ His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

Take a moment to note your observations regarding Job's family and Job himself.

Job's Family:

Job:

TAKING IT INWARD

What strikes you about Job's actions?

What do you find convicting, or challenging, or inspiring?

Let's add a layer of detail, which is where Valentine's Day comes in. Job was a rich dude. He had a big business to run with lots of staff. But every morning after these parties he would rise early and offer 10 burnt offerings—one for each child. He consistently sacrificed on behalf of his children to provide spiritual protection. This is a true act of love. In fact, we are taught in Romans 14 of the connection between love and providing spiritual protection. You may want to check that out.

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

For parents, the application of this scene is obvious: creating a family culture conducive to living a vibrant relationship with God. But the application doesn't stop there. What other circles (friends, co-workers, ministry charges) do you have in your life for whom you are in a position to provide spiritual protection? Use the table below as a prompt to brainstorm on this question (a sample is provided; bonus points for connecting the action to Scripture).

CIRCLES	JOB-LIKE SACRIFICE
Co-workers	Resist destructive office dynamics; operate in a way that keeps the teachings of the gospel attractive (Titus 2:9-10)