

A Permanent Solution To A Temporary Problem

(First in a series)

by Heath Rogers

Suicide is a horrific tragedy that leaves many people asking, “Why?” In the next few articles, we will consider some common explanations for suicide and see how people in the Bible handled these types of situations.

Perhaps, for some, this decision is made because of overwhelming pain and suffering. The Bible tells us that Job was a good and upright man who feared God and shunned evil. He was blessed with ten children, and his possessions made him one of the greatest men of his day (Job 1:1-3). There came a time in Job’s life when all of these blessings were taken away. One day he received news that all of his livestock had been destroyed and stolen, and all of his children had been killed. Then, shortly afterward, Job lost his health, as well as the support of his wife and his friends. In the midst of his pain and sorrow, Job did what many people in similar situations do: he began to wish that he had never been born.

“After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth... Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb? Why did the knees receive me, or why the breasts, that I should nurse? For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep; then I would have been at rest... Or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, like infants who never saw light? There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest” (Job 3:1, 11-13, 16-17).

Job did not know why this was happening to him; he just wanted it to stop. He wished that he had not been born, or that he would have died in childbirth. Then, he thought, he would be “at rest” from his present sorrows.

We are able to see Job’s life in a way that he was not able to see it. We can see his life as a complete picture. Although he suffered terribly, we know that it was only temporary. He enjoyed great blessings before these events took place, and God blessed him even more afterwards (Job 42:10-17). We also know why these things were happening to him (Job 1-2). However, each of us must live our own lives like Job did – one day at a time. Most days are normal, some days are great, and some days bring incredible tragedy and heartache. Job’s experience has been recorded for our benefit. It helps us to see that there is more to life than just one day. God intends to bring us through our sorrows in a way that shows us his compassion and mercy (James 5:11), but He can only do this for us if we keep on living.

Young people need to understand that bad times will come in life. If every day was only sunshine, everything would be a desert. As much as your family and friends love you, they can not protect you from the evils of life, nor can they fully prepare you for them. The pain of things like rejection, failure, betrayal, violence, the loss of a loved one, etc., has to be experienced to be fully understood. We can only assure you that these times will come. Bad things happen, and sometimes they seem to all happen at the same time. When they do, please remember that it is only a moment in your life. Rise above the temptation to live solely in that moment and see life for what it really is – a series of days, events, circumstances, etc. The storm may be great, but it will soon pass.

Those who are in the grave may be at rest from the sorrows of life, but they are also missing out on the blessings that life brings to the living. **Choose life** (Deut. 30:19).