

Accept That Life's Not Fair

Points to Consider:

1. **Reality** of unfair lives
2. **Reactions** to unfair lives
3. **Results** of godly reactions to unfair lives

Reality of unfair lives

Joseph's goodness

Joseph was a hard-working, _____ young man.

Gen 39:7-9 Joseph was determined to _____ God.

Gen 39:11 *But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, 12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. NKJV*

Joseph literally _____ away from sin. He could not have handled the situation any better.

Joseph's unfair reality

Gen 39:19 *So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused. 20 Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison. NKJV*

Joseph was thrown in prison for a crime he did _____ commit.

Joseph's "Life's not fair" moment

Gen 40:14-15 *14 But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. 15 For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon." NKJV*

Joseph did the right thing when he allowed God to use him to interpret the cupbearer's dream. He does have His "Life's not fair" moment when he said, "I was stolen away" from my home and "I've done _____ here that they should put me into the dungeon."

He asked the cupbearer to remember him when he sees Pharaoh, but Joseph languished two more years in prison.

Job's goodness

Job 1:4 *And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly. NKJV*

Job _____ offered up sacrifices for his children just in case they sinned in their hearts.

Job's unfair reality

Job 1:18 *While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" NKJV*

In one day, Job lost all his physical _____ and all his _____.

Job 2:7 *So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. 9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" NKJV*

Job lost his _____ and the support of his wife.

Job's "Life's not fair" moment

Job 23:2-7 *"Even today my complaint is bitter; My hand is listless because of my groaning. 3 Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat! 4 I would present my case before Him, And fill my mouth with arguments. 5 I would know the words which He would answer me, And understand what He would say to me. 6 Would He contend with me in His great power? No! But He would take note of me. 7 There the upright could reason with Him, And I would be delivered forever from my Judge. NKJV*

Job correctly considered himself to be righteous. Therefore, the bad things that happened to him were _____.

The prevailing thought of the day was that wicked people suffered and righteous people _____.

David's goodness

1 Sam 13:3 *But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." NKJV*

David was a man after God's own _____.

David killed Israel's _____ enemy.

David was a wise, loyal servant to King Saul. **1 Sam 18:5-7**

David's unfair reality

1 Sam 20:30-31 *Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? 31 For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die." NKJV*

Even though David was loyal to Saul, even refusing to kill him when given an opportunity, Saul was relentless in his pursuit to take David's life. Saul wanted David _____!

David's "Life's not fair" moment

Ps 13:1 *How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? NKJV*

David must have had numerous "Life's not fair" moments. Even though he did wonderful things, Saul was _____ over him for seven to ten years. David spent that time living in caves, acting insane, being rebuffed by a fool, and leading a small band of **misfits** on raiding missions for the Philistines.

Other examples: Moses, Elijah, Naomi, Leah, Jeremiah...

Reactions to unfair lives

Joseph's reaction was to continue to **refrain** from sin, **work** with integrity, and _____ other people. More about Joseph in lesson six.

Job 1:20-22 *Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." 22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. NKJV*

Job's reaction to his unfair life was to _____ God. He did not sin or blame God.

Job 42:1-3 *Then Job answered the Lord and said: 2 "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. 3 You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. NKJV*

Job realized that his suffering was a small thing if God was glorified through it. He also acknowledged that his understanding was limited, and God's is _____.

Ps 13:5-6 *But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. 6 I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me. NKJV*

Ps 25:20-21 *Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. 21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You. NKJV*

David chose to deal with unfair treatment by **waiting** on and _____ in the Lord. David did not choose vengeance. He did not try to settle the score himself.

Results of godly reactions to unfair lives

Gen 41:42 *Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt. NKJV*

Joseph rose to be _____ in command over Egypt.

Job 42:12 *Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. 13 He also had seven sons and three daughters. ... 15 In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. 16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. 17 So Job died, old and full of days. NKJV*

Job was blessed with _____ and a new _____. He was able to enjoy his grandchildren for four generations.

2 Sam 7:8 *Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. NKJV*

God made David king over Israel and established his kingdom **forever**.
Jesus is part of David's family!

Practical Application

When you think life is not fair follow the example of these great men.

1. Refrain from sin, retaliation, and blaming God.
2. Keep obeying and worshiping God.
3. Wait and trust God. Remember not to judge fairness in a moment, but over a lifetime. Better yet, over an eternity.
4. Memorize 2 Cor 4:16-18, Matt 5:11-12, Romans 8:18, or 1 Peter 4:12-13 and recite it to yourself when you are upset that life's not fair.