

# At the end of the trials

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14 de julio 2024

## Introduction:

- Have you experienced something that seems unfair to you?
- Have you experienced any trials or difficult times?

Tests can teach us a lot. The trials of Job and Paul remind us that **there is restoration at the end of the trial** and that **our true treasure cannot be lost**.

## 1 Presentation

JOB	PAUL
There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil. <sup>2</sup> He had seven sons and three daughters. <i>Job 1: 1-2 NLT</i>  Job was a greatly blessed man conformed to God's will of whom He was proud.	Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. <sup>(a)</sup> So he went to the high priest.  <i>Acts 9:1 NLT</i>  Paul was a persecutor of Christ's followers, who later became one of them. ( <i>Acts 9:4-6</i> )

## 2 The test

JOB	PAUL
God allows Job's heart to be tested.  <b>He loses everything he had:</b>  -His livestock, workers, servants and children. ( <i>Job 1:13-19</i> ) and his health ( <i>Job 2:7</i> )	Paul <b>goes through a series of tense and dangerous moments</b> in his mission to preach the gospel  <i>And the crowd kept shouting from behind, "Kill him! Kill him!"</i>  <i>Acts 21:36</i>  Paul goes through various trials before Roman rulers, loses his freedom, is shipwrecked and is even bitten by a snake

## 3 The answer

JOB	PAUL
Job <b>kept his eyes fixed on God</b> , never spoke against Him, and stood firm in his faith. <i>Job 1:21</i>  However, as a human, Job came to doubt God's justice. <b>He was affected by the opinions and "false" consolation of his friends</b> who presented him with a simplistic faith	Paul <b>took advantage of every difficult moment to talk about Jesus</b> . ( <i>Acts 24:24</i> )  He took advantage of different moments of this trial to give encouragement and even heal the sick, <b>inspired by the voice of Jesus:</b>  <i>That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said, "Be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach the Good News in Rome as well."</i>  <i>Acts 23:11 NLT</i>

## 3 The restoration

JOB	PAUL
Job <b>receives comfort primarily through his now-mature relationship with God</b> ( <i>Job 42:6</i> )  God, in His generosity, <b>restored Job to double all that he had lost</b> . ( <i>Job 42:12-13</i> )	Paul receives a different restoration:  <sup>30</sup> For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. <sup>(a)</sup> He welcomed all who visited him, <sup>31</sup> boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him.  <i>Acts 28:30-31 NLT</i>  Paul is clear that <b>Jesus is his reward</b>

## Jesus is enough:

God is a generous Father. We must grow in maturity and love so that we do not crave the gifts

He can give us, but the One who gives us those gifts out of pure grace and love. And that gift, it cannot be taken away from us.

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."  
*John 14:6*

For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.  
*Philippians 1:21*

# At the end of the trials

GRUPOS PAZ

## Getting to know each other:

Comment: What has been the best gift you were given?

Who gave it to you? Was it on any special occasion? What do you like most about that gift?

Reflect on what you truly value about that gift.

## Inside the Bible:

Job is a book of Hebrew poetry, what do you think of the following verses?

- Job 3:20 - 26

- Job 4:7 - 9

- Job 38:12 - 18

What does God want to say to Job in these verses?

-Who does this verse remind you of: Acts 27:35 (Paul fully calm while in the storm)

-Who do you think was Paul's inspiration when he went through all these trials?

## Putting it into practice:

- Is there a moment in your day that you would thank God for having Jesus in your life BEFORE thanking Him for the gifts and blessings He's given you generously.

Let's think of a strategy to yearn for Jesus more and more every day

### Personal question:

- For me, what does it mean to yearn for and contemplate Jesus?

### Question for the Family Altar:

What family practice can we implement to put Jesus in our prayers before any request?

PAZ