



4/20 Act One, Scene Two — Living in the Darkness

Job 2:11-3:26

INTRODUCTION

God comforts in many ways, and James and Jill Kilibarda of Minnesota have discovered one of those ways.

Looking forward to the birth of their first child, the couple learned during the pregnancy that this baby had a genetic problem and would probably only live a few hours after her birth.

They turned to a unique prenatal hospice program to help guide them through this crisis and received needed guidance and help. The Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota in Minneapolis provided them direction and stood by them through this difficult time.

Hospital nurse Raquel Beucher set up special classes on childbirth education. She checked on the parents during the birth of baby Alaina, visited in the waiting room with their families, and arranged for them to meet with a neonatologist.

Peter Lund, hospice chaplain, built a bridge of communication with the parents. He called on them in their home. He "made them think a great deal about God's role" in the situation.

Alaina lived through her first night and became among the 10 percent of these babies who live beyond two months of age. She will probably die before reaching preschool age.

The Kilibardas have returned to a normal life; both are back to work and take turns caring for Alaina. Hospice workers encouraged the Kilibardas to make memories with Alaina. These parents have carried their daughter to the

homes of their friends, large family get-togethers, and even to the coffee shop they frequent.

James Kilibarda shared why he looked to the hospice program. "I want to go through this with my eyes open. I want to feel every ounce of pain, of happiness, because if I avoid it now, it will come back to bite me. I want to experience grace."

When asked what does that mean, because it's such a vague term?

His voice cracked. "I'm still trying to figure it out. I think I'll experience it when this event comes complete, when she passes."

Ted DeHass, Bedford, Iowa; source: Neela Bannerjee, "A Place to Turn When a Newborn Is Fated to Die," New York Times (3-13-07)

 **AFTER THE ON SET OF A JOB EXPERIENCE, WE MUST FACE THE ON GOING BATTLES OF LIVING IN THE DARKNESS.**

Changing relationship with friends.

Job 2:11-13

¹¹ When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. ¹² When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. ¹³ Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.
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A Job moment changes relationships

Imagine you and your best friends, each of you enjoying the ongoing blessings of a great friendship. You each have two kids, a boy and a girl. You enjoy

the same activities. You barbecue together. You have play dates, you watch each others kids. Imagine what would happen if tomorrow your best friend's daughter stepped out in front of a car and suddenly was no more.

- Marriages are stressed by the demands of treatment for serious illness and by the death of a child.
- Divorce changes friendships and extended families.
- Job losses change economic pictures and change our activities and involvement.

Question: Why does a Job moment change our relationships and friendships even when friends seek to be sympathetic and supportive?

The focus becomes the crisis. vs 12

¹² When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads.

In one of the Job moments in my life I lost a friend because I was unable to maintain a friendship. He and his wife had been on a mission trip, and when they came to visit all I could focus on was my hurt, my emptiness my pain.

Even the most sympathetic will eventually meddle. 3:13, 4:2

¹³ Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Job 4:2

2 "If someone ventures a word with you, will you be impatient?

But who can keep from speaking?

Those two things often stress and may destroy old friendships.

Lesson: Expect to need Grace in the changing relationships living through your Job moment.

Promise: 2 Cor. 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Overwhelming Emotional Turmoil.

Depression

-- Life altering sadness, marked by inactivity, difficulty in thinking and concentration, a significant increase or decrease in appetite and time spent sleeping, feelings of dejection and hopelessness, and sometimes suicidal tendencies.

Job 3:3-10

3 "May the day of my birth perish, and the night it was said, 'A boy is born!'

4 That day-may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine upon it.

5 May darkness and deep shadow claim it once more; may a cloud settle over it; may blackness overwhelm its light.

6 That night-may thick darkness seize it; may it not be included among the days of the year nor be entered in any of the months.

7 May that night be barren; may no shout of joy be heard in it.

8 May those who curse days curse that day, those who are ready to rouse Leviathan.

*9 May its morning stars become dark; may it wait for daylight in vain and not see the first rays of dawn,
10 for it did not shut the doors of the womb on me to hide trouble from my eyes.*

Despair

– utter loss of hope

Job 2:9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" NIV

Hunter S. Thompson, the so-called gonzo journalist, committed suicide on February 16, 2005. Thompson was 67 when he died, and his family and friends said that he was in pain from hip replacement surgery, back surgery, and a recently broken leg. He'd talked about suicide for years.

February was particularly grim month for him because football season was over. The brief suicide message, scrawled in black marker and titled "Football Season Is Over," reads as follows:

No More Games. No More Bombs. No More Walking. No More Fun. No More Swimming. 67. That is 17 years past 50. 17 more than I needed or wanted. Boring. I am always [cranky]. No Fun—for anybody. 67. You are getting Greedy. Act your old age. Relax— This won't hurt.

Reuters, on AOL News (9-8-05); submitted by Lee Eclov, Vernon Hills, Illinois

Obsessing

-- A persistent compelling emotional motivation to focus on one thing.

Job 3:24-26

24 For sighing comes to me instead of food; my groans pour out like water.

25 What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.

26 I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil."

Lesson: Expect to struggle to sense God's presence in the midst of your Job moment because you are overwhelmed by dark emotions.

Promise: Isa 43:2-3

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

3 For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

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Questioning the past.

The Events

Job 3:11-17

11 "Why did I not perish at birth,
and die as I came from the womb?

12 Why were there knees to receive me
and breasts that I might be nursed?

13 For now I would be lying down in peace;
I would be asleep and at rest

14 with kings and counselors of the earth,
who built for themselves places now lying in ruins,

15 with rulers who had gold,
who filled their houses with silver.

16 Or why was I not hidden in the ground like a
stillborn child,

like an infant who never saw the light of day?

17 There the wicked cease from turmoil,
and there the weary are at rest.

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Our Actions

Job 9:20-22

20 Even if I were innocent, my mouth would condemn me; if I were blameless, it would pronounce me guilty.

21 "Although I am blameless, I have no concern for myself; I despise my own life.

22 It is all the same; that is why I say, 'He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.'

Lesson: Expect to be tempted to question every action and response in the circumstances of your Job moment. Expect to Battle the big "If Only."

Promise: 2 Thess 1:6-7

6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well.

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 **AFTER THE ON SET OF A JOB EXPERIENCE, WE MUST FACE THE ON GOING BATTLES OF LIVING IN THE DARKNESS.**

Summary

Job had to learn how to live in the darkness.

He faced changing relationships

Overwhelming Emotions

He questioned the past.

Yet Job in his darkest moments discovered the power of Promise to pull him back to God's presence.

Job 19:25-27

25 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;

27 I myself will see him
with my own eyes-I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

Do you need to claim a the promise of God's
presence in your Job moment right now?

**4/27 Act Two, Scene One — Experience Would
Tell us** — Eliphaz