





# HEROES IN BLACK HISTORY

## MAHALIA JACKSON

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(1911-1972)

The Queen of Gospel

Singer and Civil Rights Activist



"I sing God's music because it makes me feel free. It gives me hope. With the blues, when you finish, you still have the blues."

MAHALIA JACKSON





*Journey of Job*

## **Job 1:1-5**

## **Scene One**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> He had seven sons and three daughters, <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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.



## Job 1:6-12

## Scene Two

<sup>6</sup> One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

<sup>9</sup> "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. <sup>10</sup> "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. <sup>11</sup> But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

## **Job 1:6-12**

## **Scene Two**

<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.



## **Job 1:13-22**      **Scene Three**

<sup>13</sup> One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, <sup>14</sup> a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, <sup>15</sup> and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>16</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>17</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

## **Job 1:13-22**      **Scene Three**

<sup>18</sup> While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, <sup>19</sup> when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>20</sup> At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground...



## **Job 1:13-22**      **Scene Three**

<sup>18</sup> While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, <sup>19</sup> when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

<sup>20</sup> At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup> and said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,  
and naked I will depart.  
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;  
may the name of the Lord be praised.”

<sup>22</sup> In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.



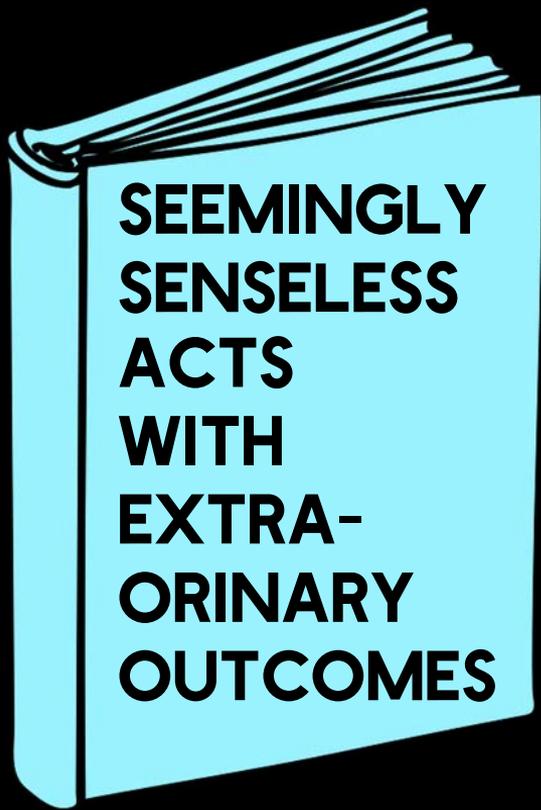
**FROM  
GREATEST  
TO LEAST**

## Phil. 2:6-8

<sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own  
advantage;

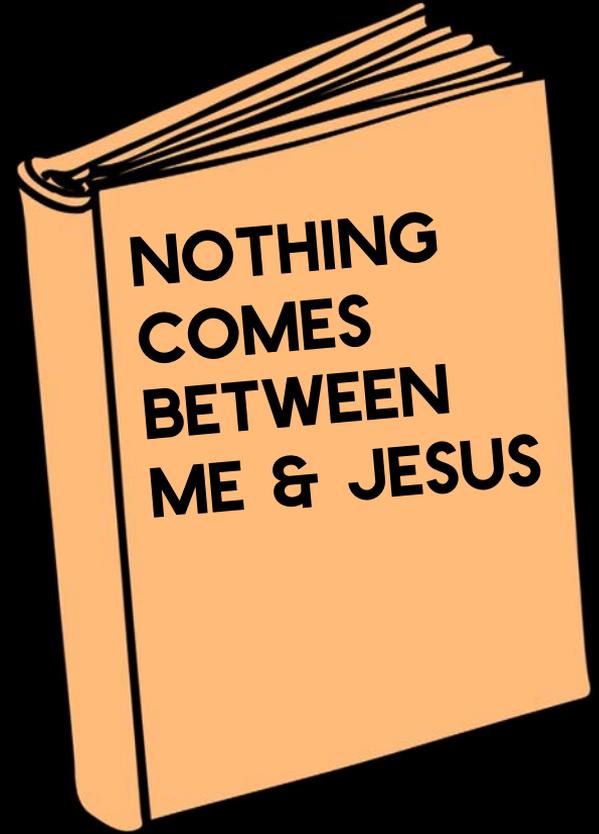
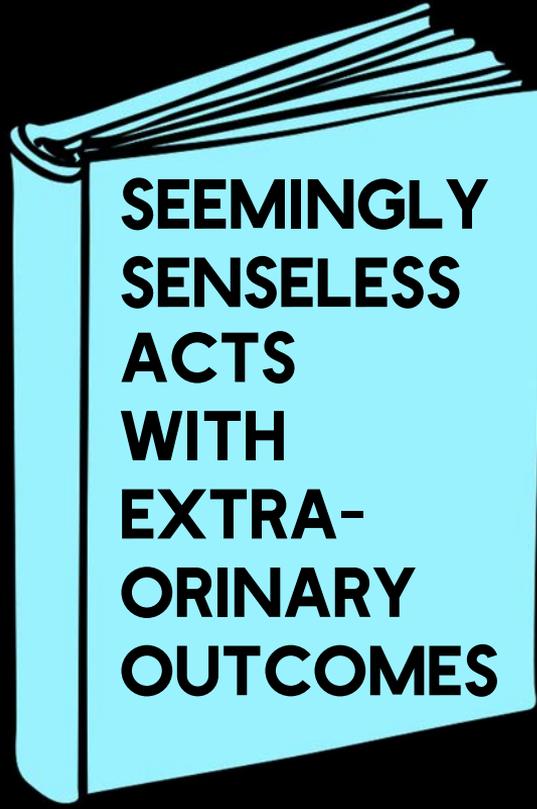
<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!



## Romans 5:18

<sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.



## Romans 8:35-39

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Further Reflection

Is your worship dependent on blessing? What do you tend to worship in good or bad times?

Do you know Jesus suffered and was separated from God so you don't every have to be?

What seems senseless or unknown that makes it hard to worship God?

Who do you know who is suffering and needs the good news that there is hope?