

**WHY
SUFFERING?**





Journey of Job

This rage against explanation is appropriate to the times we are in due to Covid-19. It also fits with our study of the book of Job. It may fit with the pain and heartache you're experiencing. Hear me: suffering is unintelligible. It does not make sense. Illness doesn't make sense. Evil doesn't make sense. Violence doesn't make sense. It is why we use the term "senseless violence." It lacks sense.



School shootings do not make sense to us. Pandemics do not make sense to us. Suffering on a deeply personal or nearly universal scale does not make sense to us. Like Ivan, we might wonder “God, where are you? Where is your goodness? How can such things exist before you?”



~ Cor Chmielecki, HCC Monday Musings, March 30th, 2020



Summer Sermon Series

How to Develop a Demanding Spirit
Job 4-37



Counseling Session #1

Eliphaz -- 4 & 5, Job -- 6 & 7

Bildad -- 8, Job -- 9 & 10

Zophar -- 11, Job -- 12 - 14

Counseling Session #2

Eliphaz -- 15 , Job -- 16 - 17

Bildad -- 18, Job -- 19

Zophar -- 20, Job -- 21

FOUQUET, Jean

"Job and his False Comforters"

1452-60



Counseling Session #3

Eliphaz – 22, Job -- 23 - 24

Bildad – 25, Job -- 26 - 31

Zophar -- (silence)

Counseling Session #4

a new 'friend'

Elihu – 32-37

FOUQUET, Jean

“Job and his False Comforters”

1452-60

Misunderstandings of Suffering

- You brought this on yourself
- You suffer without purpose
 - You lack faith
 - Suicide is the answer
 - There is no hope

*Pain is fertile soil for character development...
but also for a demanding spirit*

Job 5:6-8

⁶“For hardship does not spring from the soil, nor does trouble sprout from the ground. ⁷Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward. ⁸But if it were I, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before him.”

*Pain is fertile soil for character development...
but also for a demanding spirit*

Job 6:1-3, 8-9

¹Then Job replied: ²“If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! ³It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas – no wonder my words have been impetuous...

*Pain is fertile soil for character development...
but also for a demanding spirit*

Job 6:1-3, 8-9

⁸“Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant what I hope for, ⁹that God would be willing to crush me, to let loose his hand and cut me off!”

*The start of a demanding spirit . . .
Excessive Complaining*

Job 7:7-11

⁷“Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again. ⁸The eye that now sees me will see me no longer; you will look for me, but I will be no more. ⁹As a cloud vanishes and is gone, so he who goes down to the grave does not return. ¹⁰He will never come to his house again; his place will know him no more. ¹¹Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.”

Job responding to Eliphaz

“If only I could get my day in court with Him . . .”

Job 8:5-6

⁵“But if you will look to God and plead with the Almighty, ⁶if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your rightful place.”

“If only I could get my day in court with Him . . .”

Job 9:1-3

¹Then Job replied: ²“Indeed, I know that this is true. But how can a mortal be righteous before God? ³Though one wished to dispute with him, he could not answer him one time out of a thousand.”

“If only I could get my day in court with Him . . .”

Job 9:14-15

¹⁴“How then can I dispute with him? How can I find words to argue with him? ¹⁵Though I were innocent, I could not answer him; I could only plead with my Judge for mercy.”

Questioning God's integrity

Job 10:1-3

¹“I loathe my very life; therefore I will give free rein to my complaint and speak out in the bitterness of my soul. ²I will say to God: Do not condemn me, but tell me what charges you have against me. ³Does it please you to oppress me, to spurn the work of your hands, while you smile on the schemes of the wicked?”

Full Blown Demanding Spirit now present in Job

Job 13:13-19

¹³“Keep silent and let me speak; then let come to me what may. ¹⁴Why do I put myself in jeopardy and take my life in my hands? ¹⁵Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.”

Full Blown Demanding Spirit now present in Job

Job 13:13-19

¹⁶“Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance, for no godless man would dare come before him! ¹⁷Listen carefully to my words; let your ears take in what I say.

¹⁸Now that I have prepared my case, I know I will be vindicated. ¹⁹Can anyone bring charges against me? If so, I will be silent and die.”

“If only there were justice. . .”

Job 19:5-7

⁵“If indeed you would exalt yourselves above me and use my humiliation against me, ⁶then know that God has wronged me and drawn his net around me. ⁷Though I cry, ‘I’ve been wronged!’ I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice.”

Job expects to win his case...

Job 23:1-7

¹Then Job replied: ²“Even today my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy in spite of my groaning. ³If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! ⁴I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. ⁵I would find out what he would answer me, and consider what he would say. ⁶Would he oppose me with great power? No, he would not press charges against me. ⁷There an upright man could present his case before him, and I would be delivered for ever from my judge.”

Job responding to Eliphaz

... but then realizes he won't

Job 23:13-15

¹³“But he stands alone, and who can oppose him? He does whatever he pleases. ¹⁴He carries out his decree against me, and many such plans he still has in store. ¹⁵That is why I am terrified before him; when I think of all this, I fear him.”

*“I have been wronged,
and I will have my day in court!!!”*

Job 27:1-5

¹And Job continued his discourse: ²“As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made me taste bitterness of soul, ³as long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, ⁴my lips will not speak wickedness, and my tongue will utter no deceit. ⁵I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity.”

Job responding to all the "friends"

*“I have been wronged,
and I will have my day in court!!!”*

Job 31:35-37

³⁵“Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense — let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing. ³⁶Surely I would wear it on my shoulder, I would put it on like a crown. ³⁷I would give him an account of my every step; like a prince I would approach him.”



THE GOSPEL GOSSIPIST

#1 - The One who could have had a demanding spirit...

1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” ²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

#2 - Do we really have a case before God?

Romans 3:19-24

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

#2 - Do we really have a case before God?

Romans 3:19-24

²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

#3 – Jesus never wastes our pain

Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

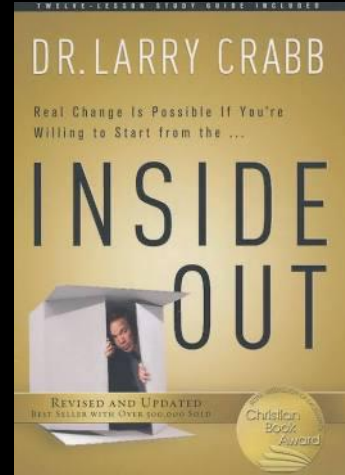
How NOT to develop a Demanding Spirit

How NOT to develop a Demanding Spirit

1. *Know that you are prone to a demanding spirit*

Problems may fuel a demanding spirit but never justify it. God is unalterably opposed to a demanding attitude on the part of His creatures, no matter how severe their suffering. His ears are opened wide to hear cries of lament and pleas for help, but He will not come to a negotiating table to consider terms from angry people. God opposes the proud who demand but He gives grace to the humble who express their hurt... Because we're fallen people who are looking for satisfaction through our own efforts, we each carry the infection of demandingness within us.

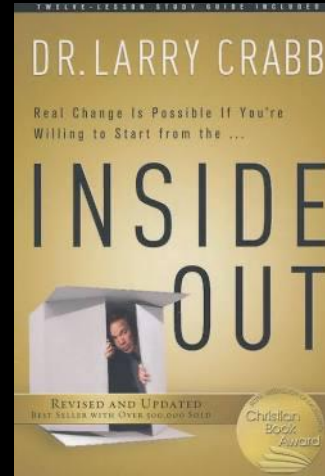
~ Larry Crabb, *Inside Out: Real Change is Possible— If You're Willing to Start From the Inside Out*, page 149.



How NOT to develop a Demanding Spirit

- 1. Know that you are prone to a demanding spirit*
- 2. Pour out your heart, but be careful not to demand*

“
Desire much, pray for much, but
demand nothing. To trust God means
to demand nothing.”



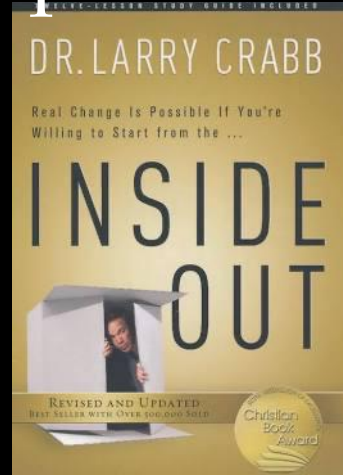
~ Larry Crabb, *Inside Out: Real Change is Possible— If You're Willing to Start From the Inside Out*, page 163.

How NOT to develop a Demanding Spirit

- 1. Know that you are prone to a demanding spirit*
- 2. Pour out your heart, but be careful not to demand*
- 3. Cling onto Jesus for hope by the tools
he has given us*

The gospel's power today lies in its resources to help us overcome a demanding spirit and to replace it with trust as we await the full revelation of its power, the day when sinful people will enter heaven as loving worshipers of God, when further sin will be unthinkable and pain will be unknown.

~ Larry Crabb, *Inside Out: Real Change is Possible— If You're Willing to Start From the Inside Out*, page 211.



Gospel Application

Gospel Application

When are you most apt to become demanding of God?

Gospel Application

When are you most apt to become demanding of God?

*How can Jesus Christ be your example to entrust
yourself to Him who judges justly?*