

Letting Go of the Irretrievable

Job 1:1-3

- I. No room for improvement, Job 1:1-3; 29:8-13, 18, 21-23.
- II. The bottom falls out, Job 1:14-19.
- III. Job desires to retrieve the “Good Ole Days,” Job 29:2, 4.
- IV. The destructive effect of desire.
 - A. Felt abandoned by God.
 - B. Saw no hope for the future.
- V. Job releases the irretrievable, Job 42:2.
- VI. Let go of the irretrievable.
 - A. Understand why we grip the past so tightly.
 - 1. We need hope in a pleasant future.
 - 2. When present unpleasantness abounds, we lose expectation for future pleasantness.
 - 3. So, we build hope on memories of past pleasantness.
This is “living in the past,” Job 29:8-13, 18, 21-23.
 - 4. For fear of hopelessness, we can’t release the past.
 - B. Rebuild our hope upon God, Job 42:2.
 - 1. Let God become your unshakable foundation for future good.
 - 2. Can’t touch Him, but can touch His promises,
Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 23:18; 24:14.
 - 3. Rebuild hope upon God’s promises regarding your future, Psalm 43:5; Romans 4:18.
 - 4. Hope built on promises no longer depends upon the irretrievable, Genesis 17:15-18.
 - 5. God becomes your inextinguishable hope that is unrelated to appearances or feelings, Psalm 43:5; Hebrews 11:1.
- VII. The reward for letting go of the irretrievable:
 - A. A new closeness to your God, Job 42:5.
 - B. Unimaginable blessings, Job 42:10, 12.

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