

“We Are What We Do.” – October 29, 2017
By Wayne J. Schneider – Cum Sancto Spiritu

We Are What We Do

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Our Scripture lessons for today speak about marriage, and we will look at that subject from a different angle. As we read Job 2:9 a valid question might be, “*Did Job think did he married the wrong person?*” Mayhaps he pondered the thought that his suffering is the result of his marriage. Of course, we know nothing of his marriage, but we do know he is a loving father of seven sons and three daughters.

Job’s wife herself has experienced harrowing events. Her children had all died on the same day. All her material possessions were destroyed instantly. Her spouse was ill from head to toe.

The Book of Job is actually about his suffering in the midst of a celestial war between God and the Satan. Essentially, Job becomes a pawn in the battle over the amount of suffering a person can experience, and still remain a person of honesty. Is it possible for us to face anguish and remain faithful to our spiritual and ethical standards?

Survivor Syndrome,’ sometimes called ‘Concentration Camp Syndrome,’ is a condition where tragedy hits a group and there is a lone survivor. These people experience guilt, despair and the inability to forget the catastrophe.

Truthfulness asks us if we can listen to the words, and live with a doubting spouse, perhaps even a well-meaning spouse, that are the opposite of your convictions? We want Job’s wife to say these things out of a desire to end his suffering.

Staying true in the midst of loss is echoed by the Psalmist. His desire for justification arises from being present with the “bloodthirsty” and the “sinners,” who are repeatedly acting in evil. Job is stretched to his limit, and we speculate how

much longer he will remain faithful to himself and to God. And yet, his determination is to hold on to his integrity

I read recently that *"If you tell a man that there are 680,456,944,234 stars in our universe, he will believe you. But if the sign reads, "Fresh Paint," he has to personally investigate!*

St. Mark shows us Jesus teaching on marriage and divorce, noting the necessity of remaining a person of truthfulness, especially in the second most important relationship of all, marriage. Have you considered the juxtaposition of this teaching and the children being brought to Jesus? Who are those who are most damaged by divorce? The children. And we know few human relationships, if any, that have no conflict or disagreement.

What are we to learn from today's Scripture lessons? First, we will live better lives *if* we live every moment trusting God. Job lived demonstrated this truth. He was *'blameless and upright man who feared God and avoided evil.'* As a result of his relationship with God, Job understood God as much as a human being may. He was a man of prayer and worship. He was deeply concerned for his children's Spiritual and physical safety, so he held his family in daily prayer. Besides prayer, Job make sure the family had fun together. In today's language we might say, *"A family that parties together stays together!*

A second lesson is found in Psalm 26: *Live your life with God.* If we love God we will love one another as we understood last Sunday, but we will also pursue a life lived in God. Someone once said, *"Secure your footing in God and you will not be easily moved."*

The final lesson is from the Letter to the Hebrews: *Listen to God.* In my prayer life I am often guilty of selfish prayer, or one-directional prayer: Praying for *what I believe I need or want.* The writer of the Book of Hebrews knew the key to prayer is when we say 'amen,' and then listen for God's voice. Psalm 8 helps us put everything in perspective. We are special and God does care for us. What type of life are you living? Alleluia. Amen.