

**Tuesday, December 15, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"And the Lord said to Satan, 'Behold, all that he has is in your hand.  
Only against him do not stretch out your hand.'  
So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord."**

*Job 1: 12*

I'm so thankful for the Book of Job. God has included it in His Word for a reason. I believe the reason the Book of Job is part of God's Word is so that we may remain at peace and humble before God no matter what is happening in our lives or in the world. Sometimes it feels like things are out of control. But according to the passage above, things are never out of control. We may not be in control of things, but then again, we were never meant to be in control of them. But God remains in total control.

When Satan came to God and wanted to mess with Job's life, God gave Satan permission. Satan needed God's permission! Not only that, but God set a limit as to how much Satan was allowed to do. Why did God even let Satan mess with Job's life in the first place? That's not really our business, but I think part of it was to show Job and the rest of us what it means to be totally reliant on God and to recognize that our lives are not our own. They belong to God.

Just one day before the tragedies came into Job's life, he had no idea that they were on their way. And in the midst of those tragedies, he had no idea where things were headed. That's pretty much what it means to be human, and not God. One year ago today, we had no idea what was coming in the year 2020. We still, even as we are hopeful about the vaccine, have no real idea what is still to come. We don't know what is coming in the year 2021 or any years that follow, for that matter. That's what it means to be human beings and not God.

But one thing we DO KNOW without a doubt ... is that God sets the limit on what is allowed to happen. And He is always fully aware of what is happening in your life and mine, just as He was fully aware of everything that was going on in Job's life.

Karen and I have an eight-pound Maltese. We walk him on one of those retractable leashes which extends to about ten feet. "Chubbs" often prances merrily to the full length of his leash, that is, until he comes to its farthest reaches. While he is merrily prancing, he probably thinks he can go as far as he wants. But then he comes to the end of his leash and the realities of his limits become fully realized.

Life's problems are on God's leash. It may seem as though there is no end to them, but there is an end. You and I don't know what the end of the problems might be, but God knows, and He is the One who sets their limit.

God allows life in this world to "extend" according to His purposes and His limits. He is always bringing about His good and perfect will for those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. In spite of any earthly circumstances, life is good because God is in charge!

Gods' Peace!  
Pastor Jim