

*Job spoke, saying: "Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?" then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. I shall not see happiness again."*

My Lord- you just want to put your arms around Job and give him a big hug and say *"it's alright- it's OK- don't worry- it will get better."* And for those who know the story of Job, you know all that he went through- he lost his family, he lost his health, he lost his wealth, he lost his peace of mind, he lost it all. Things did get better in the end- infinitely better and he got it all back in the end, but he still had to go through all the things that he had to go through.

But Job was right- life on earth is a drudgery, or at least it can be and it often is. Life can be hard- very hard- and there's always something to worry about, no matter how old you are. So many problems, so many headaches, so many reasons to complain. As Gilda Radner famously said- in her role of Rosanne Rosannadanna on *Saturday Night Live* all those many years ago (*describe Rosanne Rosannadanna*)- *"If it ain't one thing, it's another. It's always something!"*

Or in other words, you take care of one problem and right away something else happens and another problem comes up, and it seems like there's never a time when there's not a problem- or three or four- that robs us of our peace and wakes us up at 3:00 in the morning and makes our mind race and we can't get any sleep. Job was right...

But at the same time, life on earth is good- life is wonderful, when you come down to it. So many things to enjoy and appreciate and so many ways to share all the good things that God has given to us- so many things that we don't even acknowledge as being gifts from God- the very fact that we are alive, our families and our friends and all the people that we love, our intelligence and our talents, the incredible beauty of animals and of all the created world- all these things that we hardly even acknowledge and so we really don't appreciate, and we focus on the hard parts of life and forget the good parts.

And yes, we have problems and we suffer and we find life hard, but who doesn't? I'm sure that Jesus himself complained about the problems that came His way, but He didn't allow them to take His mind and His heart away from what He was doing and away from the joy that I'm sure He experienced all the time.

And when we do have to suffer and deal with so many problems, we shouldn't think that we deserve these problems- of course we don't. A very important part of the Book of Job is when Job confronts God with his litany of complaints and with his defense that he is a righteous man who doesn't deserve all the suffering that he has had to endure.

And what does God do? God basically shuts him up. God says *"Where were you when I created the world and created everything in the world and set the stars in the courses and filled the sea and created things that you would never understand in a million years?"* God reminds him that he can't begin to comprehend the will of God and that there's no connection between how righteous a person is and how much they suffer. Essentially, God is saying *"Trust me- I know what I'm doing."*

But Job's admitting that he was struggling and that he didn't always understand what was happening to him actually helped him to get through it all. He accepted the fact that he had so many difficult things to deal with and that helped him to see that there is more to life than simply what is happening to us right now. He came to see and to understand that things change, and that the things that are so hard now and take up so much of our time and energy and worry won't be always be what they are now for us.

And he came to understand that God was with him in his suffering, and believe me, that makes all the difference.