

# Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

## Job's Wife

A couple of weeks ago my daughter in Houston called, and in discussing the recent series on "*Is there any benefit in Human Suffering?*" she asked a question about Job's wife.

I have never thought much about his wife, and there is not a lot we know about her as she appears in Job 2:9-10, she impacts readers greatly. Upon previous readings, she strikes me as antagonistic. I have read Job several times during my life and have always dismissed his wife as faithless, negative, and unhelpful. So thinks to Wendy, I have taken another look at Job's wife and re-considered my position.

There is another side to Job's wife. She is introduced after Job, one of the richest and greatest men of his time, has lost all of his cattle, flocks, camels, and all his children. She had endured her husband's affliction, even the loss of all their children and all their material possessions, and had survived these trials. Like her husband, she was bewildered, amid so much calamity. Such a piece of advice as she gave him in his affliction could have been inspired by sympathy and love. Probably she would rather have seen him die than endure such great suffering.

Though Job's wife is not mentioned in the closing chapters, we learn in 42:14 that three daughters, Jemima, Kezia, and Keren-happuch, as well as seven sons, were later born to him. Probably Job's wife arose to new joy just as he did, and regretted her own lack of faith when she had advised him to "curse God, and die."

Every time we suffer, we also undergo a test of faith. Is god really in control? Is there any reason for this? Does any of this make sense? If we let emotion take over, as Job's wife did, then we will indeed curse God. And we'll be just like her: bitter, angry, and **WRONG**.

## **SUFFERING TESTS OUR FAITH IN GOD.**

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. (ps 30:5)