

Not long before I started the study on Job, my life was turned upside down, and there were days I really didn't want to go on. It's not that I wanted to kill myself, I just didn't really want to "live". My marriage was falling apart, and I had asked my husband for a separation due to several counts of his infidelity. It was all I could do most days to just survive and take care of my children.

Thanks to loving support of a caring and wise pastor, and some wonderful and godly, prayer-warrior friends, I was able to crawl from the hole, and begin to live...for me and my children.

As I began to work through the story, I began to look at my life in a different way. Not only could I see that things were not as bad as they could be, but also that no matter what God allowed in my life, He was always there right beside me...carrying me when I could not go on! Even when I "felt" alone, I could be assured that He was there! What a blessing, and a relief!

My real "Job story" hit me pretty hard, though, just a few weeks ago. My husband and I were talking one evening, and he brought up some information about one of his "friends". My response was cold and uncaring, and in my mind, I was thinking that she got exactly what she deserved...punishment for her sins. The next day I was driving across town and a wave of guilt flooded my soul. I had to pull over and cry...and pray for forgiveness. I had been acting JUST like Job's friends. I messaged some of those prayer-warrior friends to pray for me as I struggled with my feelings of hate and guilt.

The message she sent: *"I am struggling with hatred toward these women and bitterness toward them and my husband. It is keeping me from the walk that I desire with God. I desperately seek your prayers for me in this matter. I know that I cannot forgive on my own."*

Since then, I have begun to pray for the two women my husband had been seeing, and much of the hate, and the burden I felt has been lifted from my heart. That is not to say that my "holier-than-them" attitude doesn't creep in on a nearly every day basis, but when it does, I pray for them.

I'm finding it harder to hate and judge them the more I pray for them. I am still struggling with forgiveness, but I know that with continued prayer, someday that will come as well. I thank God that He is there to comfort me whatever happens...and that everything works for the good of those who serve Him.

I don't know if this is a "Job" story, but working through the study has definitely done a work in my life, and my mind was drawn to the study when God spoke to me about my severe judgment of this woman.