



**DATE** July 23, 2017

**SPEAKER** David Smith

**TITLE** Trust Over Blame

**SERIES** Some heroes look better from a distance. Others – including a leader, a prime minister, a martyr, a boy, a bold woman and a man who lost everything – look better up close and personal. But no matter how you look at them, they’ve left epic legacies for us to examine as we create legacies of our own.

**Opener:** While Job’s suffering was not limited to possessions only, he certainly lost most of what he owned. Which possession(s) would you most willingly let go of? Which possession(s) would be most difficult to lose?

### Going Deeper:

- Satan wagered that Job would stop worshipping God if he were stripped of the “benefits” God provided. Yet, when he lost everything but his wife, he immediately lay prostrate in worship acknowledging “naked in; naked out” and what the Lord gives He can take away. How can you practically exercise keeping a loose hold on everything you own? How would the concept of our belongings (material, health, relationships) being on loan change your perspective? Does just our tithe belong to the Lord or does it extend to everything?
- Pastor David referred to Satan as our accuser during the sermon. Satan seeks to remind us of our shortcomings daily and tries to place a wedge in our relationship with Christ in the process. The amazing story for us though is that, as Christians, we know we are forgiven of these shortcomings when we seek a life in Christ. How do you work through Satan's accusations against you? In what ways have you stood as your accuser and was it warranted?
  - How does Job 16:19 and 17:3 compare to 1 John 2:1 as far as who is our advocate?
- God’s view of our life is panoramic – He sees the beginning, middle, and end at once. His word promises us in Romans 8:28 that He works all things together for the good of those He has called. We saw this expressed in the epic legacies of Joseph (he saved his family from famine) and Stephen (his death scattered the disciples causing the spread of the Gospel to outer areas). Can you think of other biblical examples of a snapshot that appeared to be perilous but God was crafting it into a beautiful panoramic picture? Do you have a personal example from your life?
- David explained Job’s legacy as choosing to trust God over blaming Him. Although trusting God will not eliminate pain, questions, or necessarily provide a reason for our suffering, it is our only choice besides blaming Him or others. Job chose to trust God over blaming Him. He was honest in his anger and his confusion. How do you trust and be honest about your feeling and not blame? With whom do you surround yourself?

### Focusing on Others:

- When someone chooses to trust over blame, they not only experience greater intimacy with God and give Him a rare gift, they are also a blessing to those around them. What impact have you witnessed when someone exhibits joy and trust in the midst of suffering, especially undeserved suffering?
- As Christians who trust in our Heavenly Father in all things how can we help unbelievers find trust in God and His plan in their suffering?