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JOB: HOW HE HANDLED TROUBLE

INTRODUCTION

This is how we are introduced to Job: (1:1-3) "... the greatest of all the men of the east"

His position abruptly changed: (1:13-22 and chapt. 2)

1. NUMBED SHOCK

(2:5-10) Job is "smote with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown"
(2:11-13 and 3:1) Job is literally speechless.

2. DESPAIR

Job wanted to die: (3:3, 11) "Why died I not from the womb?"
When we suffer abrupt change, we have similar feelings and thoughts.

3. LONGING FOR "THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

(29:2) "Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me"

Remembering the past is OK, may produce some positive results now, fond memories.

But we are in trouble now.

We cannot go back, can't undo what's happened, "If only ... "

Now we have to be convinced that each day brings its own opportunities.

4. ANGER AND RESENTMENT

Job had a typical reaction and started to blame others.

(16:1-2) "... miserable comforters are ye all"

(32:1) "So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes"

Job could not believe what these "friends" were concluding.

They said: 1) prosperity was God's reward for a righteous life and

2) trouble and sorrow was God's punishment for being a sinner, so, Job,
you must have done something really horrible.

Job now wants to blame God: (30:20-21) "I cry unto thee, and you do not hear ... "

5. AN HONEST ENCOUNTER WITH GOD (38:1-3)

Job came to a better understanding of the past (38:4-41)

Job came to a better understanding of the future; it can be brighter (13:15; 23:10; 42:12)

CLOSE: the One who provided "good old days" can be trusted to provide "good new days"