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<sup>7</sup>So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. <sup>8</sup>And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. <sup>9</sup>Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" <sup>10</sup>But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

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1. Skin for skin

- a. Satan was given permission to afflict Job bodily, but he could not take his life
  - a1. Satan asserted that if Job was in pain, he would curse God
  - a2. Job had lost his children, most of his servants, & his wealth
  - a3. Satan left Job his wife & 3 misguided friends
- b. *Painful boils* is the same phrase used of the *festering boils* afflicted on the Egyptians (Ex. 9:8-11) and the boil on Hezekiah (2 Kn. 20:7)
  - a1. Modern doctors have pieced together the symptoms mentioned in ch. 2-30 to speculate that Job had *Pemphigus Foliaceus*, a painful rare autoimmune disease of the subcortical layer of the epidermis (skin)
  - a2. Painful, itching, burning, oozing eruptions accompanied by fatigue, darkening of skin, & bad breath (treated with corticosteroids)
- c. Job sat in ashes & scrapped boils with a potsherd

2. A frustrated wife

- a. Job's wife is utterly frustrated & bitter
  - a1. She had lost her children & security
  - a2. Now her husband is struck down with a painful disease
- b. Job needed her comfort & support
  - a1. She needed comfort & had none to give

- a2. She takes her frustration out on Job & God
- c. Job's wife asks Job if he still keeps his integrity
  - a1. *Integrity* = wholeness, innocence, uprightness (to be pure in thought & deed)
  - a2. Job's wife mocks Job for maintaining unwavering devotion to God who has struck him down with unbearable affliction
- d. Job's wife suggests that he *curse God and die*
  - a1. Not words a husband want his wife to say
  - a2. Satan uses her to encourage Job to curse God just as he predicted
  - a3. She would rather have her husband dead than suffering

3. Job's response to his wife

- a. Job's wife was not close to Job's spiritual level or his understanding of God
- b. Job compares her to one of the foolish women who gossips in the market place
  - a1. *Fool (nabal)*, name of Abigail's husband) – one who lacks understanding (Ps. 14:1, 53:1)
  - a2. A carnal understanding of God's ways will never endure during a crisis
- c. Job states that we must *accept adversity from God as well as accepting goodness from him*
  - a1. *Accept* = to receive with patience; to give assent to what one is given
  - a2. If faith is based upon receiving only goodness from God, then it is not genuine faith
  - a3. *Adversity* = evil, hardship, difficulty, trials
- d. Job understood that God had a purpose in sending trouble in a person's life as well as blessings
  - a1. Job was willing to accept tribulation as a normal course of living in a fallen world
  - a2. Job's trust in God is absolute, so a reverse in circumstances did not shake his faith
- e. Once again, Job passes the test & does not accuse or curse God
  - a1. To Job's wife his response was absurd
  - a2. As an ultimate example of faith he excels