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*“The LORD gave me what I had, and the LORD has taken it away.” ~Job 1:21*

So often we hear this verse associated with death. Job’s children had all perished in one fell swoop. I can’t imagine losing one of my children, but all of them? Today, though, I’m not talking about death, I’m talking about loss period. We mourn the loss of a job, a friendship, a dream, but we fail to remember that all that we have is allowed us through God. It’s at his discretion that we have anything at all. The old adage, “There but for the grace of God…” is true. God’s grace, His mercy, His tender love, and kindness are the only reasons that we have anything including the very breath that we breathe. God’s ways are so much higher than our ways the Scriptures tell us. He knows what He’s doing, whether we understand it or not. I think of God’s vantage point on our lives as being something like someone watching a parade from overhead. Those of us in the parade or even watching from the ground can only see one section at a time. We have no idea what’s to come. God, on the other hand, can see the whole thing from beginning to end. He knows exactly what we’ll need, and he knows how to get us from point A to point B.

So many stories in the Bible leave us saying, ‘Aha’ at the end. The story of Joseph for example. Without his jealous brothers, Potiphar’s lascivious wife, and the forgetful cup-bearer thousands would have died. Where is the ‘Aha’ moment for Job’s story? There is none. The only purpose for Job’s story is to show us for millennia that ultimately God is in control. Even if Job were never raised up from that ash heap, God still would have been in control. We need to trust Him and his wisdom.