

PULPIT COMPANION

THE
MOMENT IS
“TELEIOS”

MATTHEW 5:48

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This powerful message invites us into a profound understanding of spiritual maturity through the lens of agricultural harvest and the Greek concept of 'teleos.'

Rather than perfection meaning flawlessness, we discover that Jesus calls us to be fully developed, mature, and complete in our faith journey. Through Job's story, we witness three transformative movements: first, being rooted in character that holds us steady when everything falls apart; second, rising in understanding by gaining God's perspective rather than demanding answers; and third, reproducing love by praying for those who wounded us. The most striking revelation is that Job's double blessing came only after he prayed for his friends who had misjudged and hurt him.

This challenges us to examine what's in our roots, because what's buried beneath the surface will eventually show up in the fruit of our lives. We're reminded that our dark seasons aren't curses but the very soil where our deepest roots form. The harvest isn't just about enduring suffering—it's about what we produce afterward. Our next blessing may very well be tied to how we handle those who have hurt us, and our capacity to reproduce divine love determines whether we simply survive or truly multiply.





SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Matthew 5:48 - "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
- Job 1:20-22 - Job's response to losing everything; tearing his robe, shaving his head, worshiping God, and not sinning by charging God with wrongdoing.
- Job 42:3 - "You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know."
- Job 42:10 - "After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before."
- Hebrews 5:14 - "Solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."
- 1 Peter 4:8 - "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Rooted in Character

Reading: Job 1:20-22

Devotional: Character isn't built when storms arrive—it's revealed. Job's response to devastating loss shows us that true spiritual maturity grows underground, in the hidden places where God shapes our roots. When everything was stripped away, Job's worship remained because it was rooted deep within him.

Today, ask yourself: What would remain if everything visible in my life was removed? Your character can't be faked or franchised; it's cultivated in seasons you'd rather skip. Don't curse the dark seasons—that's where roots form. What's planted in your root system will eventually show up in your fruit. Spend time today allowing God to examine and strengthen your spiritual roots through worship, even in difficulty.

Day 2: Rising in Understanding

Reading: Job 42:1-6

Devotional: Growth demands humility. Job discovered that spiritual maturity isn't about having all the answers—it's about gaining God's perspective. He moved from "Why me?" to "Use me," from demanding explanations to embracing enlightenment. Your suffering isn't just endurance; it's a classroom where God teaches you to see differently. Completion doesn't come by getting every answer but by trusting God with every question. Are you gripping for control or releasing in trust? You can't fly the plane from the passenger seat.

Today, identify one area where you're demanding understanding instead of demonstrating trust. Surrender your need to know everything and pick up the grace to trust God with anything. Rise by bowing low in humility.





DEVOTIONAL

Day 3: The Test of Love

Reading: Matthew 5:43-48

Devotional: Jesus calls us to "be perfect"—not flawless, but fully developed in love. The Greek word teleos means mature, complete, whole. God's perfection isn't about sinlessness; it's about love that reproduces itself even toward enemies. This is the ultimate test of spiritual maturity: Can you love those who hurt you? Can you pray for those who misjudge you? Real growth isn't measured by what you endure but by how deeply you love afterward. Your next blessing may be tied to how you handle the people who wounded you.

Today, pray specifically for someone who has hurt you. Don't wait for an apology—reproduce the mercy you've received from God. Divine love doesn't just react; it reproduces grace.

Day 4: The Power of Intercession

Reading: Job 42:7-10

Devotional: "After Job had prayed for his friends"—this phrase unlocks everything. God didn't restore Job's fortunes because of his suffering but because of his willingness to intercede for those who failed him. Job's friends didn't just abandon him; they falsely accused him. Yet before restoration came, forgiveness had to flow. Your breakthrough is often connected to your benevolence toward others. God waits to see if you'll reproduce love before He releases multiplication. Restoration flows through reconciliation.

Today, consider: Who have you withheld forgiveness from? Whose name have you refused to pray? Your intercession for them may be the key that unlocks your own double portion. Pray not for revenge but for their redemption. Watch what God does next.





DEVOTIONAL

Day 5: Harvest Time—Reproducing Love

Reading: 1 Peter 4:8-11

Devotional: The harvest isn't just about what you've survived—it's about what you've become and what you'll reproduce. Love that has been tested, taught, and transformed now has the capacity to multiply. You're not just recovering; you're reproducing grace, peace, and love into the lives around you. There's still life in your root. You may be broken, but you're not barren. The storms had their say, but the Spirit declares it's harvest time. True maturity means your gifts don't just display your talent—they distribute God's grace.

Today, intentionally bless someone who doesn't deserve it. Serve someone who can't repay you. Forgive someone who hasn't asked. This is teleos love—fully developed, freely given, faithfully reproducing the character of Christ in you and through you.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE : "The Moment of Teleos"

Opening Prayer:

Begin by inviting someone to pray, asking God to speak wisdom and revelation as you discuss His Word together. Ask for open hearts and teachable spirits.

Key Scripture:

Matthew 5:48 - "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Supporting Passages:

- Job 1:20-22 (Job's response to loss)
- Job 42:3 (Job's humble confession)
- Job 42:10 (Restoration after prayer)

Icebreaker Question

Share about a time when you thought you had "arrived" or completed something, only to realize God had more growth ahead for you. What did that season teach you?

Sermon Overview

This message explores the Greek word teleos (Matthew 5:48), which means to mature, complete, and be fully developed—not to be flawless. Using Job's journey, we discover three divine movements toward spiritual harvest:

1. **Maturing** - Rooted in Character
2. **Completing** - Rising in Understanding
3. **Being Fully Developed** - Reproducing Love





SMALL GROUP GUIDE :

"Feed What You Want to Flourish"

Discussion Questions:

Part 1: Maturing - Rooted in Character (20 minutes)

Read Job 1:20-22 together

1. What does it reveal about Job's character that he worshiped God even after losing everything? How is this different from simply having good behavior?
2. The sermon said, "What's in the root will show up in the fruit." What does this mean practically? Can you identify what's in your "root system" right now?
3. Discuss this statement: "Don't curse your dark season—that's where the roots form." How does this change your perspective on difficult times you're currently facing or have faced?
4. The pastor mentioned that character is revealed, not built, during storms. When has a crisis revealed something about your character (positive or negative) that you didn't know was there?
5. Personal Reflection: What character traits do you want to develop more deeply in the "underground" seasons of your life?

Part 2: Completing - Rising in Understanding (20 minutes)

Read Job 42:3 together

1. Job confessed he "spoke of things I did not understand." Why is intellectual humility so important for spiritual maturity? Where in your life might you need to admit you don't have all the answers?
2. The sermon contrasted "why me?" with "use me." Which question do you tend to ask during hardship? What would it look like to shift from one to the other?
3. Discuss this insight: "Job's suffering wasn't just endurance—it was a classroom for enlightenment." How can viewing your struggles as a classroom change how you respond to them?
4. The pilot and passenger story illustrated trusting God's control. In what areas of your life are you trying to "fly the plane from the passenger seat" instead of trusting God?
5. The pastor said, "You can't rise right if you won't bow low." What does staying humble while pursuing growth look like in practical terms?





SMALL GROUP GUIDE :

"Feed What You Want to Flourish"

Discussion Questions:

Part 3: Being Fully Developed - Reproducing Love (25 minutes)

Read Job 42:10 together

1. Why is it significant that God restored Job's fortunes AFTER he prayed for his friends? What does this teach us about the connection between forgiveness and blessing?
2. The sermon stated: "My next blessing is tied to how I handle the people who hurt me." How does this challenge or encourage you? Do you believe this is true? Why or why not?
3. Job's friends falsely accused and judged him harshly, yet he prayed for them. Who in your life needs your prayers rather than your resentment? (You don't need to name them aloud—just reflect personally.)
4. Discuss this powerful statement: "Real maturity isn't the gifts you display—it's the grace you give." How does our culture (including church culture) sometimes measure maturity incorrectly?
5. The farmer didn't pull up the broken vine because "there's still life in the root." Who in your life might others have given up on, but you sense God still has life and purpose for them?
6. The sermon ended with: "I'm not reacting—I'm reproducing grace, peace, and love." What would change in your relationships this week if you adopted this mindset?

Key Takeaways

Write these down and share which one resonates most with you:

- Teleos means mature, complete, and fully developed—not flawless
- Character is built underground before storms reveal it
- What's in the root will show up in the fruit
- Rising in understanding requires humility and teachability
- You can't rise right if you won't bow low
- Love isn't complete until it reproduces itself through forgiveness
- Your next blessing may be tied to how you handle those who hurt you
- God is in the business of multiplication, not just addition





Practical Applications:

This Week's Challenge:

Choose **ONE** of the following to practice this week:

For Maturing (Rooting in Character):

- Identify one character trait you want to develop (patience, integrity, faithfulness, etc.). Write down three practical ways you can practice it this week, especially when no one is watching.

For Completing (Rising in Understanding):

- Ask God to show you one area where you've been trying to control outcomes instead of trusting Him. Journal about surrendering that area and what "bowing low" looks like practically.

For Being Fully Developed (Reproducing Love):

- Pray for someone who has hurt, betrayed, or misjudged you. If possible, take one step toward reconciliation or blessing them in some way (even if they never know about it).

Accountability:

- Share with at least one group member which application you're committing to
- Plan to check in with each other during the week
- Come prepared next week to share what God revealed through the exercise

Closing Reflection (10 minutes)

Group Exercise: Go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence:

"I sense God is calling me to teleos (maturity/completion/full development) in the area of _____."

After everyone shares, pray for the person on your right, specifically asking God to help them grow in that area.

Final Prayer

Close with prayers that include:

- Thanksgiving for God's patience with our growth process
- Confession of areas where we've resisted maturity
- Requests for grace to forgive those who've hurt us
- Declaration that there's still life in our roots
- Commitment to reproduce love, not just react to pain





Additional Resources

For Further Study:

- Read the entire book of Job this week (or at least chapters 1-2 and 38-42)
- Study other "teleos" passages: James 1:2-4, Philippians 3:12-14, Hebrews 5:14
- Reflect on Jesus's own teleos moment: John 19:30 ("It is finished" = tetelestai)

Recommended Questions for Personal Journaling:

1. Where am I in my teleos journey: maturing, completing, or reproducing?
2. What "underground work" is God doing in me right now that I can't see yet?
3. Who do I need to pray for that I've been holding resentment toward?
4. What would "double blessing" look like in my life, and am I willing to forgive to receive it?

Leader Notes

- **Be sensitive** to group members who may be processing deep hurt or betrayal. The call to pray for those who've wounded us is biblical but can be triggering. Create space for honest emotions.
- **Encourage vulnerability** by sharing your own struggles with forgiveness and growth.
- **Don't rush** through the questions—it's better to discuss fewer questions deeply than to skim through all of them.
- **Celebrate growth** when members share breakthroughs or insights from previous weeks.
- **Remember:** The goal isn't perfection (flawlessness) but teleos (maturity, completion, and full development in God's design).

"There's still life in this root. You might be broken, but you're not barren. You might be cut, but you're not canceled. You might be wounded, but you're worth something."

