

Job

(Gib Singleton, Bronze, 41" ed. 33)

Singleton



One of my new pieces is Job, which is a character I've been thinking a lot about lately.

You all know the Bible story, right? Job is this guy who is incredibly wealthy, with huge herds of oxen and donkeys and sheep and camels. And he's also incredibly devout. Well, Satan says to God that Job is only devout because God has given him so much, and if it were all taken away, he would curse God.

So God takes away all his possessions. Job's herds are stolen and driven off, and his house collapses in a huge storm and kills all his children. And still he's devout.

Well, the Devil says, sure he's accepted the loss of his wealth and his family, but afflict his person and he'll curse you. So God says, "Go ahead and test him." And the Devil does, with boils and illness and misery. And still Job won't curse God. Instead, he curses the day he was born. He shaves his head and tears his clothes and says, "I came into the world naked and I'll go out the same way."

So this piece shows him at that moment. He's naked, covering himself with just a flimsy shroud. The figure is really elongated. The burden of keeping his word, keeping his faith, has totally thinned him out. He has one hand on his head, almost to shield himself, and the other covers his nakedness. He's at the edge of his strength. I tried to put the doubt in there, like he's holding a little back. He's not sure he can give it all to God. And you know, whatever our cause or whatever our purpose, we've all felt that.

I think at times we all have Jobs in us, because it can be so hard sometimes. We don't know if we can actually do what we've promised. If we can be who and what we want to be and claim to be. And that's why I wanted to make the piece.

