

Job Rejects The Words

Of His Friends

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Job 27:1-6

“And Job again took up his discourse, and said: “As God lives, who has taken away my right, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, as long as my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils, my lips will not speak falsehood, and my tongue will not utter deceit. Far be it from me to say that you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days.”

Job Believes In God's Goodness

- This is continuation of Job's long discourse maintaining his innocence, arguing for his integrity, and proclaiming his righteousness.
- Job appealed to the almighty hand of God, **Who has made his soul bitter**, to change course and rescue Job from his continuing affliction.
- Almighty God is the only One Who by His power can rescue and bring justice to Job.
- Job did not say “as I live” things would be made right but **as God lives** or putting it another way **because God lives things will be made right.**

- “He felt God had denied him justice but inconsistently still knew that somehow God was just; so he could swear by his life. This same incongruity applies also to his earlier fantasies, when with highly emotional words he viewed God as his enemy.”- Smick, Elmer
- This is probably the hardest thing for a believer to do is to convince our mind that God is good even when everything we are experiencing denies that reality.

- “I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long. He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy; though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked.”

- “He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, “My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD.”-**Lamentations 3:1-9;16-18**
- “But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.”-**Lamentations 3:21-27**

- Jeremiah proclaimed that the Lord was creating his affliction, shutting out his prayers, and blocking his path.
- Jeremiah had become so weak and troubled that his **endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD.**
- And yet at the same time, Jeremiah stated, when he called to mind the **steadfast love of the Lord**, the Lord's **mercies** being fresh and new everyday and the Lord's **great faithfulness** he had **hope**.

- Jeremiah says three things about God that are good:
 1. The Lord is good to those who wait and who seek Him.
 2. It is good that a person wait quietly for salvation.
 3. It is good for a man that bear his yoke in his youth.
- The word for “wait” in the Hebrew literally means “to twist or to bind together”.-BlueletterBible.com

- Jeremiah conveyed the idea or truth that when going through hardship it is important to attach the goodness of God to our search for Him. **Convince our mind that God is good.**
- Jeremiah is also teaching that it is good for a person in crisis to calmly rest in the hope that God will deliver. **Convince our mind to be at ease knowing that deliverance is coming.**
- Jeremiah also instructed that it is good for a person going through the many seasons of adversity to join their past experience of God's faithfulness to Him being faithful in their present trial. **Convince our mind that God is faithful to deliver us out of all of our afflictions.**

The Hidden God

- Looking back upon our life we can see how faithful God has been over the years but some could also look back and ask if God was “missing in action”.
- Did God hear Joseph when he prayed to be delivered out of his jail cell?
- When everything seemed to be going wrong in Joseph’s life was God not there?
- The answer recorded in Scripture is that God heard and was there and in complete control of Joseph’s life working to bring His people to Egypt to keep them from starving.

Job Upholds His Integrity

- Integrity means to be whole and undivided in moral principles.
- A person with integrity holds fast to their convictions regardless of the outside pressure to not do so.
- Job is holding fast to his convictions and nothing his friends have said or done is going to change his mind. Job said **till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.**
- “Using another formula of self-cursing, he says, ‘I’ll be damned if ever I concede that you are right!’”-Andersen, Francis

- In upholding his integrity Job said:
 - He would not **speak falsehood**.
 - He would not tell his friends they are **right** in what they have been saying.
 - He would **hold fast** his **righteousness**.
 - He would confess that his **heart** did not **reproach** or condemn him. In other words his conscious was clear.
- "Since they [his friends] were wrong, Job assumed he was right. That is where Job made his mistake. The fact that his friends were wrong in no way made Job right." -McGee, J Vernon

Job 27:7-10

“Let my enemy be as the wicked, and let him who rises up against me be as the unrighteous. For what is the hope of the godless when God cuts him off, when God takes away his life? Will God hear his cry when distress comes upon him? Will he take delight in the Almighty? Will he call upon God at all times?”

May It Be Upon You

- Job's friends had falsely accused him so Job in the strongest terms declared that the same punishment that his friends felt he deserved was to be put upon their own heads
- “In Israelite law the penalty for malicious prosecution of the innocent was the punishment attached to the crime wrongly charged. Hence Job's repudiation of the charges with the oath, ‘Let my hater be treated *as the wicked* person he untruthfully says I am.’”-Anderson, Francis

- “A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established. If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days. The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, **then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother.**”-Deuteronomy 19:15-19

Godless Hypocrites

- The word for “godless” in the Hebrew means “hypocrite” as well.
- Job’s friends had accused him of being a hypocrite by holding onto some hidden sin.
- Job agreed the hope of the godless hypocrite is in vain.
- The sure sign of a godless hypocrite in Job’s estimation is that he prays to God **when distress comes upon him** but he does not **call upon God at all times** since he does not **delight in the Almighty**.

Job 27:11-12

“I will teach you concerning the hand of God;
what is with the Almighty I will not conceal. Behold,
all of you have seen it yourselves; why then have
you become altogether vain?”

The Hand Of God

- Job is once again warning his friends about their smugness and pride.
- They believe they are speaking correctly about God and their pride has blinded them to the truth.
- Job's friends had expounded upon the hand of God bringing punishment upon the wicked.
- It is true that God will punish the wicked but Job's friends believed only Job would be punished but not them because they were blessed and without affliction.
- "Summoning all the strength of his faith, he declared that he would teach his opponents 'concerning the hand of God,' and he now practically took hold of all that they had said about God's visitation on the wicked, and hurled it back on them as an anathema." -Morgan, G. Campbell

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- The Scriptures record several instances where a plan designed by an enemy against His people becomes the very thing the Lord brings on that enemy.

- Pharaoh of Egypt called for the drowning of Jewish boys and his army was drowned in the Red Sea (Exodus 1:15-22;14:23-31).
- Haman built a gallows to hang Mordecai but Haman and his sons were hanged instead (Esther 7:10;9:25).
- Daniel was thrown into the Lion's Den but in the end his enemies and their families were thrown into the den (Daniel 6:24).
- “The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked walks into it instead.”-**Proverbs 11:8**

Job 27:13-23

“This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage that oppressors receive from the Almighty: If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword, and his descendants have not enough bread. Those who survive him the pestilence buries, and his widows do not weep. Though he heap up silver like dust, and pile up clothing like clay, he may pile it up, but the righteous will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver.”

“He builds his house like a moth’s, like a booth that a watchman makes. He goes to bed rich, but will do so no more; he opens his eyes, and his wealth is gone. Terrors overtake him like a flood; in the night a whirlwind carries him off. The east wind lifts him up and he is gone; it sweeps him out of his place. It hurls at him without pity; he flees from its power in headlong flight. It claps its hands at him and hisses at him from its place.”

The Portion Of The Wicked

- Job knew the **wicked man** would receive **portion** of the Almighty's justice.
- Although Job's friends would lump Job among the wicked Job affirmed to them that He was not wicked but righteous and he would ultimately will be restored by God.
- “Hence his prediction of the judgment on the godless is not a belated conversion to his friends' point of view... Since Job nowhere denies the justice of God, it is not inconsistent for him to affirm it here. The disagreement between Job and his friends is not over whether God is just or not; it is over how the justice of God is seen to work out in particular events, and specifically in Job's experiences.”-Andersen, Francis

Job's Own Crisis

- Job's crisis that he was undergoing looked very similar to the punishment of the **wicked man**.
- The wicked man's children were multiplied only to be killed by the sword...opens his eyes and his wealth is gone...terrors overtake him like a flood...the east wind lifts him up and he is gone.
- Job's situation looked similar to the wicked man's but Job could assure his friends that he had done nothing to deserve what he was enduring.
- People say all the time "he deserves what he gets" or "he got what he deserved" and yet all of us deserve hell and punishment. If it were not for the work of Jesus upon the cross eternal punishment would be certain.

- “And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who **rejects** me and does not receive my words has a judge; the **word** that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ”-John 12:44-48