

Speaking What's Right About the Lord

Introduction and Review

- Last week we primarily looked at the human perspectives of Job's response to loss & misery in suffering.
- We observed that believers may experience severe suffering even while living a righteous life that is pleasing to God.
- We also observed that believers may develop a self-centered perspective in suffering over a long period of time (ch. 1-31).
- And finally we observed that when a believer develops a God-centered perspective in suffering, he sees that even suffering has a God-ordained purpose that cannot be thwarted (42:1-6).

I. Consequences of Not Speaking What's Right (v. 7-9)

A. Displeases God (v. 7)

*They had spoken wrongly about God by making **health, wealth & prosperity** the only factors for a right relationship with God. They assumed that trials & severe troubles meant God was punishing Job for sin in his life – wrongly blamed God! They saw everything wrong with Job, but nothing wrong with themselves – pride angers God. Words reveal the content of the heart (Mt. 15:11, 18-19; 12:34b-37).*

B. Requires restoration of fellowship (v. 8-9)

*Job has already repented of his sinful attitude & words, even though he said nothing sinful about God – fellowship with God restored. From the beginning to end of the story, God refers to Job as “my servant” (1:8; 42:8) - **rich/poor, healthy/sick, popular/despised, etc.** Satan & other people had awful names for Job, but to God he was a good & faithful servant. Now the 3 friends must restore fellowship with God (repentance & sacrifice in OT) & fellowship with Job (repentance & reconciliation) - forgiveness from God & Job.*

Job becomes an intercessor/mediator for his accusers!

APPL: Job is a picture/type of Christ as he is reviled, rejected & falsely accused. Yet Job forgives his accusers & then prays that God will forgive them – like Moses & Abraham (Lk. 23:34). We likewise must represent Christ in forgiveness & intercession...

II. Consequences of Speaking What's Right (v. 10-17)

Job spoke what was right about God in prayer & to other people. Job defended God's integrity & sovereign rights (1:22; 2:9-10).

A. A testimony to others after suffering (v. 10-11)

*God delivered Job only after His purpose had been accomplished (Ps.57:1-2). God's purpose always brings glory to Himself. God's purpose included Job living & being restored to serve as a testimony of God's faithfulness, power, wisdom, love, grace & mercy: **to Satan, holy angels, Job's 3 friends, relatives, neighbors, generations of people (including you & me).** This is not intended to be a promise that every believer who suffers will be restored like Job, but this was God's purpose for Job – only God knew the outcome!*

B. Joy in life after suffering (v. 12-17)

God has revealed His love for Job & His favor toward him, even though he suffered more than most men - “my servant”. Job can find great joy in life now without looking back in pity or with regret over his past suffering. He can enjoy his family, health & possessions because he knows with certainty that they are a gift from God. He continues to bless the Lord with thanksgiving (1:21b).

APPL: Again Job is a picture of Christ as he is delivered after his suffering to serve as a testimony for God to the glory of God (Ph. 2:9-11). Job is restored back to his former position or station in life with even more glory (Jn. 6:62; 17:5; Eph. 1:19-23).

CONCLUSION

My beloved brothers & sisters, we must take great care with our thoughts, words & actions toward God & other people. We must take great care in what we say to & about God and other people (especially other believers). We should learn from Eliphaz, Bildad & Zophar to make sure that our judgments are right & true (Jn. 7:24). Do not reach a judgment about a believer hastily or solely based on the kind of trouble in their life; nor should we assume the contrary. There are also some lessons to learn from Job: 1) **patience** in lengthy & severe troubles, 2) guard our attitudes & words toward God in **prayer**, 3) a willingness to **forgive & intercede** for our accusers, 4) live as a **testimony for Christ** before, during & after every trial, and 5) **enjoy God's blessings** after your trial regardless of the outcome. We represent Jesus Christ at all times & in all circumstances. And like Job, we want God to say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant..."

If you are not a Christian, the only way that God can be pleased with you & the only way that God can claim you as His servant is for you to believe in Jesus. Jesus has given His life to save you from the penalty of your sins. Will you trust Him today for salvation; will you believe...?

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