

Faith Under Fire

Lesson #2 (Job's Friends Give Sympathy and Comfort)

Job Chapters 4-31

Scripture: 1 John 5:4 *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.”*

Introduction:

When I was at preaching school we had a long talk one day in class about hospital visits and how important they were because people in the hospital are nervous and usually a bit scared.

One of the most important things we learned was what to say and what not to say. It's amazing how often we can open our mouths and even well intentioned wrong things pour out. For instance, it is never appropriate to talk about death in a hospital to a patient...right?

The most valuable asset you have when visiting someone that is hurting is your ears. But many times we try to offer solutions instead of solace.

Spiritually when we go to someone we must handle it with just as much care. Don't get me wrong we must say what is necessary but with great sensitivity and love.

Encouragement is a fine art, but we all have the ability we must exercise it.

Transitional Statement:

Job's three friends come to comfort and sympathize with Job (2:11). They have three rounds of discussion which we will look at today. When all is said and done God says in Job 42:7 that what the friends said about Him (God) was wrong, while what Job said about God was right.

Satan will use anything to discourage Job and turn him away from God.

Lesson:

I. Eliphaz's (the king of insinuations) makes his assessment of Job's miseries

Chapter 4 (First Speech)

- A. You are impatient 4:5
- B. You need to listen to your own advice 4:3-4
- C. You must be guilty of something 4:7 **wrong**
- D. Job 4:8 “According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity
And those who sow trouble harvest it.”

1. Your getting what you deserve **wrong**

E. Worldly wisdom deserts a man when he faces his death. 4:21 **wrong**

1. Wisdom has fled from you in your present condition
2. Just listen to us and we will instruct you.

Chapter 5 (First Speech Cont.)

A. God is not listening to you anymore 5:1 **wrong**

1. And all of heaven has turned their back on you **wrong**

B. He implies that Job is a foolish man 5:2-5

1. Overcome by anger and jealousy 5:2

C. He tells Job that there is a reason for his affliction. 5:6

1. i.e. trouble hasn't just wondered up to your door step
2. You have cultivated it.

D. You must seek God 5:8

1. You need to stop turning away from Him.

E. He implies that Job is prideful and shrewd 5:11-12 **wrong**

F. And that God causes trouble only for those who are wrong 5:12-13 **wrong**

G. "And the unrighteous need to shut their mouths" 5:16

H. He implies that God is disciplining Job 5:17 **wrong**

1. And that Job should value His discipline

Chapter 15 (Second speech)

A. Your words are nothing but wind 15:2

1. Your full of hot air

B. Your arguments are useless talk 15:3

C. Your not giving God the right reverence 15:4

1. And it is hindering your relationship with Him

D. Your words are shaped by guilt and your language is crafty 15:5 **wrong**

E. You think you know it all 15:8

F. From Eliphaz's experience he says about the wicked:

1. They are the ones in pain 15:20
2. They find terror 15:21
3. They are destined for the sword 15:22
4. They find anguish 15:24

- a. Because they have stretched out their hand against God 15:25
- b. Because they have becomes enemies with God 15:26
-Rushing into battle against Him.

- 5. They are outcasts 15:28
- 6. They won't be rich 15:29
- 7. And ultimately the wicked are deceptive 15:35

Chapter 22 (Third Speech)

- A. Your lack of reverence for God must be behind His judgments against you 22: 4
wrong
- B. Your wickedness is great and your sin is without end. 22:5 **wrong**
- C. You're a thief 22:6 **wrong**
 - 1. You have taken pledges from your brothers without cause
 - 2. You have neglected the thirsty and the hungry 22:7
 - 3. You have sent needy widows away empty and neglected orphans 22:9
- D. Job you need to yield to God and be at peace with Him 22:21
- E. Job 22:23 "If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored;
If you remove unrighteousness far from your tent,"
- F. Job 22:24-25 Eliphaz says that Job should get rid of his gold and make God his gold.
 - 1. Then things will be good for you 22:26-30

II. Now Let's listen to Bildad (the king of insensitivity) great insights

Chapter 8

- A. Your words are like a mighty wind.....no substance 8:2
- B. God only allows what is right to happen to a person 8:3 **wrong**
 - 1. Example....Your son's got what they deserved 8:4
 - 2. i.e. all suffering is a punishment for sin **wrong**
- C. If you make yourself upright God will restore your estate. 8:6
- D. You haven't learned from the past generations 8:8-10
- E. You have forgotten God 8:13 **wrong**
- F. God is rejecting you 8:20 **wrong**

Chapter 18

- A. You need to show some understanding 18:2
- B. You regard us as stupid 18:3

C. Then Bildad describes the wicked 18:5-21

1. They walk in darkness 18:5-6
 - a. Stumbling around
2. Brought down by their own schemes. 18:7
3. Their own feet have lead you into this net. 18:8
4. They live in weakness 18:12
5. Even their flesh is diseased 18:13
6. They are forgotten by society 18:17
7. They have no offspring 18:19
8. And they don't know God. 18:21

Chapter 25:1-6

A. You are sinful because all men are sinful. We are basically maggots and worms.

III. And then there is Zophar

Chapter 11

- A. Your talkative 11:2
- B. Your boastful and proud 11:3
- C. Your not above correction 11:3
- D. You've claimed innocence and purity 11:4
 1. But if God would speak, He would give you real wisdom 11:5-6
 2. You must be really sinful, because God forgets part of sin
- E. You think you know everything about God 11:7
- F. You can't hide sin from God 11:11
- G. You should direct your heart right and reach out to God 11:13
- H. Put sin away and clean your tent out 11:14
 1. 11:15-19 says if you put sin away you will have rest.
- I. The wicked will fail 11:20
 1. No escape
 2. They will hope only for death.

Chapter 20

- A. The wicked's joy and victory dance is short lived 20:5
 1. God has caught you
- B. Pride brings you down 20:6-7
- C. Like a dream, you will soon be forgotten 20:8
- D. The wicked loose their wealth 20:10

1. Their strength is fleeting 20:11
- E. The wicked savor sin 20:12-17
1. Like something sweet in the mouth...they refuse to spit it out 20:12
 2. And they end up swallowing its poison 20:14
 3. They turn away from healthy food 20:17
- F. The wicked have oppressed and forsaken the poor 20:19
1. Their prosperity won't last 20:21
- G. The wicked escape one danger only to be consumed by another 20:24
- H. Heaven will reveal the sin of the wicked

IV. Job's response

- A. First of his friends he says:
1. They are deceitful, not encouraging and not kind 6:14-23
 2. You think you have all wisdom and with you it will die 12:2
 3. I have become a joke to you 12:4
 4. Easy for those at ease to give answers 12:5
 5. I'm not inferior to you 12:3
 6. Your trying to unjustly, justify God 13:7
 7. Will it be well when God examines you? 13:9
 8. Your memorable sayings are like proverbs of ashes 13:12
 9. You are sorry comforters 16:2
 10. You full of wind 16:3
 11. You torment me 19:2
 12. You insult me 19:3
 13. You friends are worthless 26:1-4
 14. You smear lies....your worthless physicians 13:4
 15. You guys need to just be quiet.
- B. Now I want to share some of Job's thoughts from start to finish. I hope we can take note of his up and down struggle in his mind.

Chapter 6 & 7

1. If grief and calamity were weighed in a scale....mine would be heavier than the sands of the sea 6:1
- * 2. My words have been rash / delirious 6:2
- * 3. God's arrows have struck me....His terrors are against me 6:4
4. Oh that God would put me out of my misery 6:8-9
- * 5. I have not denied the words of God. 6:10
6. I am hopeless 6:11
7. Am I being punished? 6:13
- * 8. I haven't erred 6:24
- * 9. I am not lying 6:28
- * 10. There is not injustice on my tongue. 6:30

11. Life is a burden 7:1-4
12. Life is short with no hope 7:6-7

- a. My eyes will not see good again.

13. I will die soon and everyone will forget me 7:8-10
14. I will complain 7:11

- a. Not restrain my mouth

15. Sleep isn't even an escape for me because God terrifies me with visions 7:13-14

16. I'd rather die 7:15

17. Leave me alone God 7:16

* 18. I've not sinned 7:20

- a. Why am I your target?

Chapters 9-10

1. How can a man be right before God? 9:2

- a. I can't even discuss things with God 9:3

- b. God doesn't have to answer anyone 9:12

- c. Even if I was right I can't take it to God 9:15

2. God bruises me with tempest and multiplies my wounds without cause 9:17

- a. He won't let me catch my breath, but saturates me with bitterness 9:18

- b. This isn't fair 9:19-20

- c. Both the wicked and the righteous He destroys 9:22

- d. I can't clean myself enough to be acceptable to Him 9:30-31

3. We can't set down and discuss things. 9:32

- a. No mediator between us 9:33

4. I loathe my life 10:1

5. I give full vent to my complaint and speak in bitterness 10:1

6. Job wants God to explain things 10:2

7. Is it right for you God to oppress the work of your hand?

8. In 10:4-6 it seems that Job is saying to God you don't know what it is like to be human.

* 9. You know I am not guilty 10:7

10. You made me and would you destroy me? 10:8

- a. Your responsible to take care of me

11. If I sinned maybe you would notice me 10:14

12. Whether I do right or wrong I am in misery 10:15

13. Why did you let me be born? 10:18

14. Withdraw from me so I may have a little cheer 10:20

Chapters 12-14

1. Justice seems to be upside down 12:6

a. The wicked are prospering

2. The hand of God has done this against me 12:9

* 3. To Him belong counsel and understanding. 12:13

4. God's judgments are final 12:14-25

5. I desire to argue my case before God 13:3

6. **Though He slay me...I will hope in Him 13:15**

7. I know that I will be vindicated 13:18

8. Only 2 things don't do: 13:20-21

a. Remove you hand from me

b. Don't let the dread of you terrify me.

9. Make known to me my sins 13:23

10. Why do you hide your face from me and consider me your enemy? 13:24

11. Man's life is short and full of turmoil 14:1

* 12. Who can make clean what is unclean....No One ! 14:4

13. Turn you gaze from man so he can rest 14:6

14. Oh that you would hide me in sheol till your wrath returns to you 14:13

a. That you would set a limit for me and remember me

15. **If a man dies will he live again 14:14**

a. Questioning eternity

16. You God destroy man's hopes 14:19

Chapter 16 & 17

1. God has exhausted me 16:7

2. God has shriveled me us 16:8

3. His anger has torn me 16:9

a. He has gnashed His teeth at me

b. He glares at me

c. God hands me over to ruffians 16:11

d. God shatters me 16:12

-Grabs me by the neck and shook me to pieces

-He has set me up as a target

e. God runs after me like a warrior 16:14

- * 4. There is no violence in my hand 16:17
- * 5. Oh that a man could plead with God 16:21
- 6. My spirit is broken 17:1
- 7. God has made me a byword....an object of ridicule 17:6

Chapter 19

1. God has wronged me and closed his net around me 19:6

a. Exact word's

- 2. I cry for help but no one answers 19:7
- 3. God has: 19:8-12

- a. Blocked my ways
- b. Put darkness on my path
- c. Stripped my honor
- d. Uprooted my hope
- e. Kindled his anger against me

-Even considered me an enemy

f. Sends His troops against me

4. My friends are gone 19:13

- a. My relatives have failed me 19:14
- b. My servants won't even respond to me anymore 19:15-16
- c. My wife finds my breath offensive 19:17
- d. Young kids despise me 19:18

5. Pity me.....Pity me 19:21

- a. God has struck me

6. I know that my redeemer lives 19:25

Chapter 21

- 1. The wicked also prosper 21:1-13
- 2. They will be judged 21:30

Chapter 23 & 24

1. Here Job knows his complaint has went to far 23:2

- a. Rebellion

2. I just want to sit and talk with God 23:3-4

- a. Present my case

- b. Make argument to Him
 - c. So I would learn His ways 23:5
3. When He has tried me I will come for as gold....refined 23:10
- * 4. I have held to the path and treasured His words. 23:11-12
5. Basically why does God not judge the wicked and come to the aid of the righteous? Chapter 24

Chapter 26-31

1. God is great 26:5-14
 - a. He establishes the north 26:7
 - b. He hangs the earth on nothing 26:7
 - c. He makes the clouds hold water 26:8
 - d. He sets the boundaries of light and darkness 26:10
2. I will hold fast my righteousness and not let it go 27:6
3. The godless have no hope 27:7-12
 - a. Their sons are destined for the sword 27:13-23
4. Man goes to great lengths to search for treasures of gold and silver, even turning the earth upside down. But man should search for wisdom Chapter 28
 - a. Wisdom is to fear the Lord 28:28

Chapter 29

1. Wish things were like they used to be 29:2
 - a. When God watched over me
 - b. When friendship with God was over my tent 29:4
 - c. When my children were alive 29:5
 - d. When things went my way 29:6
 - e. When I was respected 29:7

Chapter 30

1. I have become a taunt of fools 30:9
 - a. A byword or object of ridicule
 - b. I am humiliated
2. God has cast me into the mire 30:19
 - a. I have become like dust and ashes
3. I cry for help....God doesn't hear me 30:20

- * 4. Ruined I stretch out my hand for help 30:24
- 5. I can't relax 30:27
- 6. I mourn without comfort 30:28
- 7. I have become a brother to the jackals 30:29
- * 8. My harp is tuned to mourning and my flute to the sound of those who weep 30:31

Chapter 31....Now, Job wraps up with an assertion of his innocence.

- 1. I don't look lustfully at woman 31:1
- 2. God knows my ways 31:4
- 3. Let God weigh me with accurate scales 31:5-6
- 4. I haven't been bad to my slaves 31:13

- 5. I haven't rejected the poor 31:16
 - a. The widow
 - b. The orphans
 - c. The needy

- 6. I haven't put my confidence in gold 31:24
 - a. I haven't become prideful about my wealth 31:25

- 7. I haven't gloated even when my enemy falls
- * 8. Oh that I had one to hear me
Let the Almighty answer me !

Conclusion:

I know some of you have and are experience great tragedy in your lives.

Job was a righteous man, but he struggled.....up and down !

-But he never let his down consume him.

-He cried out "I know that my redeemer lives"

-Will you cry out to God?