

Job Lesson 3 | Job 15-19 | 6/16/13

- Review
 - We talked last week about suffering and why we go through it as Christians.
 - We also looked at why we are not supposed to assume that someone's sufferings is cause by a particular sin.
 - And that providing guidance to someone when they suffer by making accusations is not good.
- Bad things happen to good people and life can be unfair.
 - My step-mom Kathy had a Job type problem.
 - Good Christian etc.,
 - Bad things
 - Surgery on foot
 - Son had bad test results on kidneys may be cancer
 - Received a call shortly after that her uncle died.
 - Then when she hung up the phone her cat walked up to her and died on the spot.
- Eliphaz's view on Job's plight (Job 15:1-11,20)
 - In chapter 15 we see the start of the second round of speeches that is started by Eliphaz. We see again accusations made by Job's friends.
 - **Read Job 15:1-11**
 - Eliphaz made a few more accusations in his second speech.
 - Verses 5-8
 - Eliphaz believed that the responses Job gave about his piety and his innocence showed that he was guilty and was dishonoring God.
 - He mocks Job by asking "Are you so wise Job that you listened in on the conversations of God and are not going to share that knowledge with us?"
 - Verses 9-10
 - Eliphaz stated that how could he possibly know more than they do since they had the wise grey-haired men with them.
 - Men that surely know more about these things then Job could.
 - Verse 11
 - Eliphaz believed that the guidance that he Bildad and Zophar were giving to Job were actually from God.
 - **One thing is for sure Eliphaz was so sure of his counsel that he basically counts Job as a fool who doesn't know any better.**
 - **What a crappy friend!**
 - Exact retribution
 - Eliphaz took the view of exact retribution that all people received punishment or prospered based directly on what they did.
 - If you sin against God there is immediate punishment or displeasures for exactly what you did.
 - Do good and you will be rewarded, do bad and you will be punished **ALWAYS** ←That is key
 - This is why he took the view of justice on Job's situation.

- The Bible does tell us that God will bless those who obey his commands and those who don't are punished.
- However the view that this is exact and that the results are **visible** to everyone else is misguided.
- For example Job was righteous and yet was suffering.
 - Job was seemingly receiving the sinner's punishment yet he didn't do anything to deserve it.
 - Things are not always as they seem and it's not our place to cast judgment.
- **This view of exact retribution that Eliphaz had brings up a good point for us.**
- **There are examples of people in our current time and perhaps ourselves that were punished or blessed in a way that seemed to be "exact retribution" but perhaps others where we didn't see immediate signs of punishment or blessings.**
- **We may think hey that's not fair I sinned saw immediate punishment, but so and so seems to always get away with it.**
- **What do you think of "exact retribution"? Do you think that a sin is always punished (seen or not) and the same with obedience and doing what God has asked of us (seen or not)? Are the punishments/blessings always visible to others?**
- The time for the wicked is short? (Job 15:20)
 - Eliphaz makes a statement here that the wicked die prematurely because of their sin.
 - Job 15:20
 - "A wicked man writhes in pain all his days; only a few years are reserved for the ruthless."
 - This is also similarly stated in Proverbs 10:27
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 - "The fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked are cut short"
 - Following God and turning from evil certainly is the way we need to live our lives and it can certainly prolong it, but this doesn't guarantee that we will live till we are 100 years; there are times where Christians seem to be called home to soon, at least in our eyes.
 - Christians sometimes pass away seemingly "before their time" while sinners may live long lives can seem unfair.
 - The fact that sometimes the wicked lived long lives and saw their children grow up while the whole time denying God while others who are Christians may seem to suffer or were taken home early can seem to be unfair.
 - If we look at history we can look to a few "evil" individuals who seemed to live a long live perhaps longer than others who lived their lives completely for God.
 - Adolf Hitler- Lived 56 years | Responsible for 11 million deaths | died of suicide
 - Saddam Hussein – Lived 69 years | Brutal dictator | Was executed
 - Osama bin Laden – Lived 54 years | 9/11 | Killed by USA
 - Christians seeming died early
 - 4 Teens killed while traveling to a Christian youth rally
 - May 13th, 2012 4 individuals all in their 20's were killed in a plane crash while traveling to a Christian youth rally.
 - A quote from one of the friends of the deceased:
 - "They were guys who stuck to their morals and it showed through their character, and how they treated people," she said. "They thought of others first.

- God is the ultimate authority and we must recognize this even if we do not understand why.
 - The loss of life before their time is the most difficult perhaps
 - Was it fair that Job lost all his children?
 - Was it fair that those young adults perished on the plane crash?
 - Isaiah 57:1-2
 - “The righteous one perishes, and no one takes it to heart; faithful men are swept away, **with no one realizing that the righteous one is swept away from the presence of evil.** He will enter into peace they will rest on their beds everyone who lives uprightly.
 - The scripture tells us that the righteous one is swept away from the presence of evil.
 - To me this means that it’s not about us and our personal loss of that person, it’s about God’s plans for that person.
 - We think oh woe us, but really it is between that person and God.
 - We know we are supposed to put others before us, but when we lose someone we think of the loss for ourselves, which is OK, but we can have comfort that God was involved and as in the verse they were swept away from the presence of evil.
 - Regarding someone who is evil just because we think that a certain person is beyond evil and that God should take them out we shouldn’t question God’s actions even though we want to.
 - We may want a murderer executed immediately.
 - Sometimes evil does become good, you can look at Paul from the Bible.
 - But we need to remember that we are all sinners and are on a road to Hell unless we receive our Salvation.
 - So what if our lives were cut off because we sinned, before we knew Christ?
 - So we likewise cannot ask God to remove someone because of their evil, there is hope for anyone regardless of what they have done.
 - Through the revelations that have been given to us from the Old and New Testament though we know that we do live in a fallen world. Jesus told us that we would have trials and there would be suffering BUT Jesus has overcome the world!
 - John 16:33
 - “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world”.
 - Justice is given in the end to those that do evil and turn from God and will be punished in Hell for an eternity and likewise those young Christians who have been taken early are spending an eternity in Heaven in a much better place than we are.
 - Romans 6:23
 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - The only definitive answer to these questions is that God’s ways are not ours and we cannot fully understand his ways, he sees everything from the past, present and to the future.
- **What do you think about the extended life of sinners that cause pain and suffering for others? Or why seemingly good Christians die young?**
- Job’s response to Zophar regarding the wicked prospering (Job 21:7-9, 13-14)
 - This passage is Job’s response to Zophar regarding that the wicked always suffer.

- Job was aware that there are those that seem to be living a life of sin yet are going strong and may not “appear” to be seeing the punishment for their sins. From a 3rd party view they seem to be getting away with it.
- **Read Job 21:7-9,13-14**
- So similarly to our discussion with longevity for sinners why also does it seem that those that don’t perhaps commit major crimes against humanity but seem to just live a life of sin that seems to go unchecked.
- Maybe someone who is an atheist that lives a life of rock and roll, drugs and alcohol. Is very wealthy and participates in all sorts of fornication yet seems to be doing just fine.
- Why do those people seem to have a good life while a Christian may be facing financial hardship?
- Perception
 - They may seem to be doing good but in reality without Christ they have nothing to live for, they would just be empty on the inside.
- This is evident with the severe depression you see with a lot of celebrities.
A tool of Satan?
 - Do you think this could be a tool of Satan to turn us from God? To get us focused on the world.
- **How do you feel when you see evil people prosper? What are some examples that you have seen?**
- Job’s response to Eliphaz and Bildad (Job 16:1-5)
 - Job would counsel with encouragement.
 - **Read Job 16:1-5**
 - Job said that if he was in their shoes, if the tables were turned that he would encourage them with his mouth and that would bring relief, he wouldn’t string empty words and shake his head against them like they did to him.
 - Job would provide words of encouragement and comfort with his mouth as opposed to endless accusations.
 - Job would use his words to ease the grief much like God does for us when we call to him.
 - Psalms 138:3
 - “On the day I called, You answered me; You increased strength within me.”
 - Job understood the encouragement that God provided which like in this Psalm was to strengthen the heart so that it would not be crushed under the weight of affliction and trouble. To be encouraged to withstand the grief and to carry through.
 - Job’s method of counseling by encouragement as opposed to accusations is certainly the better way.
 - **Do you agree with Job’s method?**
 - Job knows he will be vindicated and he will see God. (Job 19:25-27)
 - **Read Job 19:25-27**
 - These statements from Job show that regardless of everything that was going wrong with him at the moment that in the end when his body was no more he would see his redeemer and that he would see God.
 - This statement from Job is pretty significant in the fact of his reference to “his redeemer”, the common scholarly belief is that he is in fact referring to Christ, similar as to other OT prophetic scripture.
 - Regardless if this was his exact meaning or not his words show that Job believed in life after death and that he would be put into a heavenly body and he will see God.
 - Which is the same for us today, that we have our redeemer which is Jesus Christ. That through our belief in him we will have everlasting life and we will see him in Heaven.

- **So Job's example to us is this:**
 - Even in times of extreme troubles when life may be seem unfair and we cannot understand why God is allowing certain things to happen to us.
 - We must always keep the end goal at the foremost in our minds, that we being Christians, believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior he gives us hope and comfort that we can get through the difficult times and that in the end we will live an eternity in Heaven and we will meet Jesus face to face.

- **Optional-----**

- Take a look at ourselves when accused.
 - Accusations will be made of us
 - We have been looking at the accusations that Job's friends have made to him about why Job is suffering.
 - They are very certain that it is because he has sinned against God. Job has maintained his innocence through this process.
 - From reading this scripture we have seen that we are not to assume someone's sin is the cause of their problems. Just because your friend is going through a tough time doesn't mean that it was a direct cause because of some sin.
 - That if they could refrain from all sin that they would never have any troubles.
 - How we handle accusations.
 - We as Christians may and probably will be on the receiving end of accusations just like Job.
 - However it is important that we don't immediately dismiss them.
 - Let's say you are a good Christian person and you're attending your child's baseball game.
 - The referee makes a bad call and you then show your Christian love for the ref by vocalizing your distaste for him and his mother. Maybe even you use a few words that that make your tongue sizzle 😊
 - Then let's say your good Christian friend sitting next to you says "now that wasn't very Christian like"
 - A common reaction to accusations or criticism may be "how dare they judge me!"
 - Who does Sally think she is telling me I was being "un-Christian" like.
 - If we have a friend Christian or not that points out something either in our actions or in our attitudes that to them conflicts with whom we say we are if we seem to be perhaps a hypocrite.
 - If and when these accusations come up it is important that we immediately ask God to examine our hearts.
 - We need him to tell us if the accusations are true, because we may very well be guilty.
 - Sometimes we cannot see our own faults.
 - Job did this, even knowing he did not sin against God he still prayed and asked God if he had done anything wrong.
 - Job 13:23
 - "How many iniquities and sins have I committed? Reveal to me my transgression and sin."
 - Jesus stated that our love for one another is how the world will know that we are Christians.
 - After all Jesus did say that the way that we show our love for one another to fellow Christians will show the world that we are Jesus's disciples.
 - John 13:34-35

- “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”
 - This is often considered as the mark of a Christian.
 - A Christian who loves one another like Christ loved us is one who would lay down their life for a fellow Christian, one who is self-less, one who can see the Christian heart in others regardless if they are rich or poor.
 - If the world sees something contrary to this they can certainly question us on those actions.
 - That is why we must ask God to show us (like Job asked) if we have done something wrong, show us so that we can repent.
 - **Gavin example.**
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