

# Job Lesson 4 | Job:23 8-17, 27:1-6 | 6/23/13

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- We are going to look at scripture today from Job's response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of speeches from Bilidad, Zophar and Eliphaz.
- The speeches went back and forth a few times and Job's "friends" still accused him of being wicked and that he was NOT righteous.
- Job was confident that he had not failed God. Even through listening to the continuing speeches from his friends trying to convince him otherwise.
- We are going to look at some key statements that Job makes in regards to his belief in God and we are also going to learn Job's secret to his ability to maintain his integrity throughout this entire ordeal.
  - The secret..??
- **Read Job 23:8-17**
- Job understood the relationship between God and man. (Job 23:8-10a)
  - Job understood that God's ways are not ours and that we cannot understand them, however God knows OUR ways. I know this is the go to answer for a lot of things in life when we cannot understand why God would allow something to happen.
  - But this is a truth that cannot be ignored; this is a truth that Job was well aware of.
    - Job 23:8-10a
      - "If I go east, he is not there, and if I go west, I cannot perceive Him. When he is at work to the north, I cannot see him; when he turns south, I cannot find him. Yet he knows the way I have taken;"
    - Even though we do not know God's ways, Job's statement that God knows the way that we have taken should give us encouragement.
    - You see God is aware of each and every single one of us, he knows everything that we see and do and he is aware of all of our troubles. God has his hand in every part of our lives.
      - Psalms 139:3-6
        - "You observe my travels and my rest; you are aware of all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it Lord. You have encircled me; You have placed your hand on me. This extraordinary knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it."
      - Psalms 139:13-14
        - "For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made."
      - Psalms 139:17-18
        - "God, how difficult your thoughts are for me to comprehend; how vast their sum is? If I counted them, they would outnumber the grains of sand; when I wake up, I am still with you."
    - Job and King David (who wrote the psalm) were aware of this core truth about God.
      - God has his hands in every part of our lives, he controls everything.
      - To fully understand God's thoughts is beyond our comprehension.
    - This knowledge gave Job hope as it likewise will give us, because unlike Job's friends whose failed attempt at council was a steady stream of accusations and false assumptions, God will not make false accusations.
    - God know exactly what we need and he has perfect reasons as to why he does what he does.

- God knows the truth and his council and guidance will NEVER steer us wrong.
  - Psalms 1:6
    - “For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin”
  - Jeremiah took comfort in this as well
    - Jeremiah 12:3a
      - “As for you, Lord, you know me; you see me. You test whether my heart is with you”
  - Remembering that God watches over the righteous should give us much encouragement (like it did Job) in our times of trials and even when we have lost everything.
  - God will always be there.
- **Does knowing this about God and seeing examples of it in the Bible does this give you hope and comfort in your trials or sufferings?**
- Job’s confidence that had obeyed God (Job 23:10b-12a)
  - Job 23:10b-12a
    - “When he has tested me, I will emerge as pure gold. My feet have followed in his tracks; I have kept to his way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips;”
  - Job was confident that he had obeyed God and that he would emerge as pure gold in God’s test.
    - **Humm does that sound arrogant? His friends certainly thought so when Job would tell them he was innocent they would rebuke him.**
    - Why was Job so confident?
      - Reason 1 -- Because he walked in God’s steps he endeavored to follow God.
        - Job 23:11
          - “My feet have followed in his tracks; I have kept to his way and not turned aside
        - Job strived to walk in God’s steps to conform himself to God’s example.
        - The steps of God are Holy and righteous, they are also mercy and kindness.
        - This is what Job strived to be.
        - He knew that to live up to God’s standards he needed to imitate him and live in obedience to all that God had asked of him.
        - Likewise for us if we strive to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and live our lives like him, how can we not have the confidence that we are living in obedience to God?
        - If you want to be sure that you are in the will of God and doing what he wants, then simply live your life in the footsteps of Jesus.
      - Reason 2 -- Because he treasured the word of God MORE than his daily food.
    - Job 23:12:b
      - “I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily food”
    - The word of God and his commands were more important to Job than nourishment for his physical body.
    - Job understood what was really important.
    - The word of God is to our soul what food and water are to our bodies.
      - Our soul cannot survive without the word of God, it will perish and rot in hell without God’s word.
      - No matter the success of our bodies in this world, no matter what luxurious life of comfort and worldly happiness we may experience... that has no comparison

to the significance of our soul, it is of no benefit to us if our soul is not feed properly.

- The worldly pleasures are worthless in comparison to our soul.
- You see Job If given a choice between the two would take the nourishment for his soul over food for his body.
  - **We must also be like Job in this case, that our soul is infinitely more important than our physical bodies and that it should always be given priority.**
  - 1 Timothy 4:8
    - “For training of the body has a limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come”
    - **Key phrase “holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come”**
    - **Our physical bodes are temporary, our soul lives for eternity.**
  - Job was fully aware of this important truth and knowing this he made the word of God a priority over everything else.
  - We can so easily put nourishment for our soul on the back burner, only reading our Bible on Sundays’ or praying just when we need something.
  - We are spiritually starving if we do this!
    - **I have realized how much I was spiritually starving since I started teaching this class.**
  - **We put so much time, energy and focus on things that are temporary, if only we had the attitude and view on life as Job.**
- **Do we have what it takes to have the same attitude/perspective as Job? Or are we more concerned for our physical well-being (which is temporary) instead of our soul (which lives on for eternity)?**
- **Do we care more about “feeling good and being happy” in a worldly since as opposed to being spiritually mature?**
- Job knew God’s “will” would be done.
  - **Read Job 23:13-14**
    - “But he is unchangeable; who can oppose him? He does what he desires. He will certainly accomplish what he has decreed for me, and he has many more things like these in mind”
  - So Job knew something else that extremely important about God and that was God’s will is unchangeable.
  - Job understood that God has a plan for him and that it cannot be changed, and that God will accomplish those plans.
  - This also should give us encouragement and it should give us hope just as it did Job. That even in the midst of our troubles or our suffering that God’s will WILL be done and his was are righteous and pure and who are we to argue with the plans he has for us.
    - Psalms 135:6
      - “Yahweh does whatever he pleases in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all the depths.”
  - **Job certainly didn’t enjoy his suffering but he was aware that everything was in God’s hands.**
- Job feared God
  - **Read Job 23: 15-16**

- “Therefore I am terrified in His presence; when I consider this, I am afraid of him. God has made my heart faint; the almighty has terrified me.”
  - We knew from the very beginning that Job feared God
    - Job 1:1
      - “There was a man in the country of Uz named Job. He was a man of perfect integrity, who feared God and turned away from evil.”
    - And again he makes this same statement, and from reading the previous scripture we see why he is afraid.
  - Job was aware that God was an almighty being who has an eternal plan for his life. He knew that God was wise and that he would accomplish everything he had set for Job.
  - So there for this gave him fear that God had such control
  - **The same is said for us this is why we must fear God because if you believe that God is an infinite being that created the heavens and the earth and he breathed life into you and he can take it away.**
  - **How can you not fear that?**
  - Yet Job realized that he has not been destroyed or given death through the suffering he has endured. He is still doesn't know the WHY but he is very much aware it is God's will.
- Job's secret to his integrity revealed
  - Job's secret to being able to live with integrity, to being able to make it through his extreme suffering was:
    - Job recognized that God was in complete control of everything and that God's will would be done.
    - Made the word of God a priority in his life
    - He followed in the footsteps of God.
  - This gave him all the hope and encouragement he needed to face the extreme suffering that he was enduring.
  - This was Job's secret to his integrity.
  - Does this sound simplistic or too easy?
  - That's because it really is, we can maintain our integrity to God by simply walking in the footsteps of Jesus and being obedient to his word.
  - The difficult part is for us to just follow through and to not put the world as a priority in our lives.
  - **Really Job's secret isn't anything new but simple biblical truth and his desire to apply them to his life.**
  - **What do you think of Job's "secrets" do you think you can apply them to your life and that they will give you comfort and understanding to make it through any time of difficulties you may have and that you can maintain your integrity with God by following them?**
- Job's ultimate declaration of integrity (Job 27:1-5)
  - In Job's final response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> set of speeches to Eliphaz, Zophar and Bilidat he makes this ultimate statement of upholding his integrity
    - Job 27:1-5
      - “Job continued his discourse, saying: As God lives, who has deprived me of justice, and the Almighty who has made me bitter, as long as my breath is still in me and the breath from God remains in my nostrils, my lips will not speak unjustly, and my tongue will not utter deceit. I will never affirm that you are right. **I will maintain my integrity until I die.**”
    - This statement to me is the ultimate declaration of maintaining your integrity; Job said he would die before losing his integrity.

- As we previously saw the reasons as to Job's belief in his integrity which was because he walked in God's footsteps and obeyed his word by caring more for his soul than his physical body.
  - Job summed it up here that
    - Even though he didn't feel he was receiving justice and
    - He was had been greatly afflicted,
    - That as long as there was still life in his body he would not speak against God,
      - He would not curse God to his face as the devil had wanted him to.
    - Job would never say that he was a hypocrite and agree to the false accusations of his friends.
    - He would maintain his integrity until he died.
  - **I use this passage of scripture as encouragement for myself. I recite this and think of everything that Job went through all the calamity, trials and suffering. Yet he was adamant that he would never lose his integrity even unto his death.**
  - **I want this for me, when I struggle I think to Job and realize that he had it WAY worse than I do and he maintained his integrity, so why cannot I do the same.**
- Job's methods to maintain his integrity (Job 27:6)
  - Job 27:6
    - "I will cling to my righteousness and never let it go. My conscience will not accuse me as long as I live!"
  - Job stated he would cling to his righteousness and never let it go, what excellent advice that is.
    - No matter what Job had or would go through he would hold onto his righteousness and maintain his walk with God through his thoughts and actions.
  - His conscience was always going to be clear never having a moment of doubt, because of consistently striving to be righteous.
  - Modeling Job's behavior would be most beneficial to us.
  - If you conscious isn't clear and you feel you have wronged or disobeyed God then perhaps you have.
  - You need to repent for what you have done and strive to not repeat it again by clinging to your righteousness and living a godly life.
  - Job's example is for all of us!