

Job Lesson 6 | Job:29-31 | 7/7/13

- Review
 - Wisdom
 - True wisdom comes from God. It cannot be found on this world, not from science or philosophers.
 - Wisdom is worth more than any precious stone.
 - Thus it should be a priority in our lives.
 - The beginning of knowledge is the fear of God.
- Job's discourse of his past and present (Job:29-30)
 - In chapter 29 Job reminisces his past life.
 - When God seemed very close
 - Read Job 29:1-6
 - Job was respected by the people
 - Read Job 29:7-8, 12-16, 21
 - Job thought he was going to die with his life being this way
 - Read Job 29:18
 - In chapter 30 Job examines his current situation.
 - The lowest of men mocked Job
 - Read Job 30:1, 9-10
 - Before Job's calamity he was respected and honored by all even the most esteemed men, but now even the lowliest mock him.
 - Now that Job has nothing the world has turned its back on Job.
 - Terrors are upon Job
 - Read Job 30:15-16, 27-28
 - Job's distress that God is not listening to him.
 - Read Job 30:20-22
- Job's Ethical Standards (Job:31)
 - Job in the conclusion to his final speech, he sets out to show with examples his ethical standards that he has lived his life by.
 - These ethical standards are very much ones that all Christians would do well to abide by as well. Job is an example for all of us when it comes to the ethical standards of a Christian.
 - Final statements showing that Job had maintained his integrity.
 - **Read Job 31:1-12**
 - Job was Faithful (Job 31:1-2, 9-10)
 - I find it interesting that this is the one that Job seems to lead with. Perhaps because sexual immorality and adultery is so prevalent both then and now.
 - Job states his faithfulness
 - Job states that he made a covenant with his eyes that he had kept himself faithful to his wife.
 - Job had not committed adultery or looked upon his neighbor's wife with lust.
 - He knew that this was what God wanted and he intended to be obedient.
 - The Christian ethical value of keeping from adultery and sexual immorality is very well known.
 - Between the 7th commandment:

- Exodus 20:14
 - “Thou shalt not commit adultery”
- And the words of Jesus
 - Matthew 5:28
 - “But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- Job was confident he had been faithful to his wife (Job 31:9-10)
 - Job 31:9-10
 - “If my heart has been seduced by my neighbor’s wife or I have lurked at his door, let my own wife grind grain for another man, and let other men sleep with her.”
 - Job was so sure that he had remained faithful that he said to let his own wife be given to another man if he hadn’t been faithful. Job was very confident that he had maintained his faithfulness.
- The Christian value of being faithful isn’t anything new, but it is very important.
- If we are to keep our hearts pure we must guard our eyes.
 - Job stated in verse 1 that he “made a covenant with his eyes”
 - Our eyes can be the inlet to many wonderful things; it’s the way that we see the beauty and splendor of God’s creation.
 - They eyes we see the world in which we live and all the good things that God has provided for us.
 - The means in which we see the beauty of our children, our husbands and wives.
 - These same eyes though can lead to sin as the very first sin began with the “eye”
 - Genesis 3:6
 - “Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom.”
 - Eve’s eyes showed her the beauty of the tree and it was desirable.
 - That was true but she was also aware that God had told her and Adam that the fruit was forbidden.
 - Yet the desire that started with the eye led to sin.
 - Which is exactly how adultery begins.
 - This is why we must guard our eyes.
 - Job’s statement to make a covenant with his eyes should for us Christians’ not only apply to adultery or lust but in many other aspects of our Christian lives.
 - If we do not guard our eyes we are susceptible to so many other sins like greed and envy or coyness.
 - **We must use Job’s example to make a covenant with our eyes that we use them as God intended to view the creation that God has made and to love (appropriately).**
 - Because any use of the eye’s beyond what God intended is of the world.
 - 1 John 2:16
 - “For everything that belongs to the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s lifestyle-is not from the Father, but is from the world.”
 - The lust of the eye is covetousness which is the 10th commandment
 - Exodus 20:17

- “Do not covet your neighbor’s house. Do not covet your neighbor’s wife, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”
 - **We should all make a covenant with our eyes like Job did, if we do and we abide by it we will find ourselves walking closer in obedience to Christ, because we will be turning from evil.**
 - Do you agree with Job that guarding our eyes will help to keep us from evil and sin?
- Job was honest (Job 31:5-6)
 - **Read Job 31:5-6**
 - Job understood the value of being honest and what that meant.
 - Job had shown a Christian ethical standard of honesty.
 - He didn’t lie and cheat or commit fraud to get what he wanted.
 - Job didn’t deceive people to obtain his wealth and friends.
 - Job seemed to understand this Proverb even though it hadn’t yet been written.
 - Proverbs 13:11
 - “Wealth obtained by fraud will dwindle, but whoever earns it through labor will multiply it.”
 - Job knew honesty what was God wanted not deceit.
 - Job was so sure that he had spoken the exact truth that he said for God to weigh him on accurate scales and God would recognize his integrity.
 - Job wasn’t boasting but stating a simple fact of his ethical character that he was an honest man who spoke the truth and maintained his integrity.
 - Job’s honesty is contrary to the world.
 - Job’s Christian ethical standard of honesty is not like the world. To the world an individual needs to do whatever they can to get ahead, even if that means their entire life is a cheat and a lie.
 - Do whatever it takes to climb the corporate ladder, do whatever it takes to get rich.
 - This was not Job, he recognized this as not of God and he chose the higher road.
- **When you look at the world, the Christian ethical standards of being faithful and honest seem to be in the minority compared to the world’s view of promiscuity and lies. Why do you think the world is so attracted to these views?**
- **Do you think the world looks down upon those who maintain Christian ethics of faithfulness and honesty?**
- Job was fair and just (Job 31:13-15)
 - **Read Job 31:13-15**
 - Job uses the subject of his servants and the way that he treated them to show that he was fair and just.
 - Job had many servants in the beginning before he lost everything:
 - Job being the master could certainly have ruled his servants with a strong hand and always had the attitude that he was right. But Job was a fair master; he listened to all complaints that were brought against him.
 - If he servants came to him saying he had been unfair to them he would listen and not tell them to go away.
 - Job knew that God was the final judge
 - Job knew that he would be judged by God.
 - So he didn’t want to face God knowing that he was unjust with his servants.

- Job wanted God to be fair with him so he wanted to be sure that he was fair to those that he was master over.
- **We should feel the same way as Job with all aspects of our lives, that with all sin we will have to answer to God.**
- Job strived to be a fair and just, because he knew they all had the same master.
 - Job 31:15
 - “Did not the One who made me in the womb also make them? Did not the same God form us both in the womb?”
 - God is the creator of us all.
 - Colossians 4:1
 - “Masters, supply your slaves with what is right and fair, since you know that you too have a Master in Heaven.”
 - Job was fair because he too like us has a Master in Heaven.
 - Ephesians 6:6-9
 - “Don’t work only while being watched, in order to please men, but as slaves of Christ, do God’s will from your heart. Serve with a good attitude, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that whatever good each one does, slave or free, he will receive this back from the Lord. And masters, treat your slaves the same way, without threatening them, because you know that both their Master and yours is in Heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.”
 - You see regardless of our social status here on earth whether we are the president of the United States or a fry cook God has no favorites.
 - He does not put one over the other, we were ALL made in the image of God and we all have the same primary objectives in life.
 - Sure we all have different gifts some great some small.
 - Some of us are meant to be great in the eyes of men some not.
 - But we all are to proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
 - We are all to spread the Gospel.
 - We are all to love God.
- So if we believe the same about God that Job did, that is spoken of him in Scripture:
 - That we were all created by God.
 - That God has no favoritism.
- **Then why do we as Christians treat people unfairly?**
- **Can you examine your behavior and interaction with others and say that you are fair to everyone?**
- Job showed mercy (Job 31:16-23)
 - **Read Job 31:16-23**
 - Job demonstrated the Christian ethical standard of mercy.
 - Job looked after the poor, the fatherless and the widows.
 - Job didn’t put himself above these people; he helped them in their time of need.
 - He did all this because he feared God. Job knew that God required this behavior from Job that that is what he was supposed to do.
 - Job 31:23
 - “For disaster from God terrifies me, and because of His majesty I could not do these things.”
 - Is this example not like Christ?

- Didn't Christ care for the poor and the needy? Didn't he tell us to?
- Luke 14:12-14
 - "He also said to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, because they might invite you back, and you would be repaid. On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.
 - Jesus tells us to care for those who cannot care of themselves and we will be repaid not now but once we are in Heaven.
 - **To care and to provide for those when we know we will not get anything back shows the true nature of our hearts.**
 - Jesus wants us to show mercy to those in need and to be a servant.
- This is pure religion before God
 - James 1:27
 - "Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world."
 - We are called to be servants; we are to put others before ourselves.
 - **If all we care about is ourselves then we are living in disobedience to God and certainly not living a life like Jesus did.**
 - **A Christian must show mercy to those around them friend and foe alike if we are to live our lives for Christ.**
 - **If all we care about is our needs then shame on us.**
- We have the same God as Job, so we should also fear God just like Job.
 - Job's fear of God caused him to take action, likewise our fear of God should cause us to act in obedience.
 - **We know the Bible teaches us to care for the less fortunate, but we don't always do this, in fact we may sometimes have a hard time getting ourselves to acknowledge the world outside of our little box that we live in.**
 - **We see it in the news people suffering everywhere, but if it doesn't affect us directly in our daily lives we may not ever take action.**
- **Do you find yourself focusing on the day to day and what is going on your life to such an extent that you miss opportunities to care for the poor and the needy?**
- **How do you feel when you have acted in obedience and helped someone in need?**
- Job put his focus on God (Job 31:24-28)
 - **Read Job 31:24-28**
 - Job shows us that he had God as a focus this is what allowed him maintain his ethical standards and to maintain his integrity.
 - Job didn't put his trust in in gold or rejoice that he was so wealthy because he had accomplished so much, Job didn't boast.
 - Job didn't worship the sun or the moon like the pagan cultures; he only worshiped the one true God.
 - Job knew that to do any of these things to attribute what he had to anything but God would be to deserve punishment from God.

- **How we too must keep our focus on God, if God is always in our thoughts and we think of how our actions will affect God before we do them, we would certainly live a better Christian life.**
- Job showed compassion and understanding (Job 31:29-34)
- Job's final plea to God. (Job 31:35)
 - Read Job 31:35a
 - "If only I had someone to hear my case! Here is my signature; let the Almighty answer me."
 - Job has pleaded his case before God and he is asking to be judged.
 - He wants God to answer him regarding everything that he has spoken.
 - Job believes he is innocent and wants justice from the one true God.