

Job Lesson 7 | Job 38-42 | 7/14/13

- Review
- God speaks to Job from the whirlwind (Job 38:1-3)
 - **Read Job 38:1-3**
 - First off I would be scared if God appeared to be and said those things!
 - God asks “Who is this who obscures my counsel with ignorant words?”
 - God is referring to Job
 - Not all that Job said was what God would have wanted to hear. Job on several cases made the statement that he wasn’t receiving justice and not being treated fairly and Job wanted answers.
 - Job never cursed God nor turned from him but his speeches about justice weren’t exactly right either.
 - So God having heard everything that was going on between Job and his friends wants Job to listen to what he has to say.
- The mysteries of nature demonstrate God’s sovereignty.
 - God gives a whole slew of rhetorical questions to show is divinity.
 - God is the creator (Job 38:4-13)
 - **Read (Job 38:4-13)**
 - God makes it clear that he is the creator of all things.
 - Was Job there when God created the Earth? No of course not.
 - God asks who created the clouds, who declared to the oceans that you may come this far but no further.
 - That was God and not Job nor man.
 - God shows that he is the creator of all the Earth and all living things.
 - God commands the weather (Job 38:25-27, 34-35)
 - **Read Job 38:25-27, 34-35**
 - God asks who clears a path for the rain.
 - Could Job possibly control this in any way? NO only God can do this
 - Who brings rain on uninhabited land? That is only God.
 - Can man control lightning bolts?
 - **God description of the weather really opens our eyes and minds to the glorious power that God has.**
 - It is unfathomable to think that the power of the weather could ever be controlled. And it cannot be controlled except by one supreme individual and that is God.
 - God commands the animals (Job:38:39-41)
 - **Read Job 38:39-41**
 - Who provides the raven’s food when its young cry out to God?
 - Jesus stated the same thing:
 - Luke 12:24
 - “Consider the ravens: They don’t sow or reap; they don’t have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them.”
 - God gave wisdom and understanding to his creation as he willed. (Job 38:36, 39:13-17)
 - **Read Job 38:36, 39:13-17**
 - Job 38:36
 - “Who put wisdom in the heart or gave the mind understanding?

- We know that God gives wisdom to those who ask and to those who please him but in reference to the rest of creation we see that God chose to give humans wisdom and understanding but not the ostrich.
 - God is showing Job that in his creation he chose which of his creation would have understanding; God chose not to give it to the ostrich as it cannot understand that its eggs would get destroyed on the ground.
 - Job 39:17
 - “For God has deprived her of wisdom; He has not endowed her with understanding.”
 - **The reason that the Ostrich does not have wisdom like we do is not because of chance but because of divine appointment.**
 - God created the horse without fear for battle (Job 39:19-25).
 - **Read Job (39:19-25)**
 - This speaks to me of an example of God’s divine creation with a purpose.
 - God created the horse in this example without fear; the horse has been used in wars since the very beginning.
 - How is it that the horse is not scared not go into battle? The horse will hear the battle horns sound and charge into battle, yet never being afraid of the sword.
 - Again God alone created and designed the horses to behave according to God’s desires.
- Job’s dumfounded reply to God (Job 40:1-5)
 - **Read Job 40:1-5**
 - Job who was able to vindicate himself to his friends with his responses did no such thing to God.
 - Job realized his guilt, in the KJV it states “Behold I am vile”.
 - Job was dumfounded and not able to reply because he knew there was no way he could vindicate himself before God.
 - He knew God was right and he accepted his guilt.
 - This is also how we are to be before God. When we disobey or wrong God, there should be no argument to God trying to justify or vindicate ourselves from what we did wrong.
 - We are not to argue like a child to God.
 - We need to be on our knees in complete submission and ask for his forgiveness. We must own up to our mistakes.
 - Then as Job we should be silent and let God respond.
 - Because how can you learn from your master if you do not listen?
- God asks Job if he is capable of questioning God’s judgment. (Job 40:6-14)
 - **Read Job 40:6-14**
 - God asks Job in verse 8 if he would challenge God’s justice. If Job could declare God guilty to justify himself.
 - You see Job had complained about God’s dealings with him, Job felt that it was unfair that such a righteous man as he was had been going through such suffering.
 - God heard Job’s complaints quit clearly and basically asks Job if he is worthy to question God’s judgment as laid out by God’s questions to Job if he has arms or the voice of God?
 - Of course the answer is NO so who is Job to question God’s actions?
 - **You see when we complain to God about something that he has done it’s implied that we are saying to God that things should be different. That somehow God is mistaken in what he has done and that whatever has happened should be reversed.**
 - This isn’t to say that you can’t ask God to help you through a difficult situation, or to save you from some calamity.

- But if God has chosen something for us in our lives we are not to argue with God's decisions.
 - But if we ask ourselves the questions that God asked Job, do we have the arms of God, do we have his voice.
 - **Who are we to question God's actions?**
 - **God is the creator and maker of all things, his justice is always right we have NO right to question judgment or decisions he makes in our lives.**
- In Job's case he felt he had been more severely punished than he deserved and he was suffering in a way that was injustice.
 - But this implies that Job knew what was better for Job than God did.
 - **Let's say hypothetically you were standing in the throne room of God. Would you tell God to his face that you knew what was better for your life than he did? Say he has laid out a path for your life that you don't agree with. Is it right for you to disagree?**
 - **Of course not so why would we complain to God?**
- God's asks Job if he can show that Job is right and God is wrong.
- **What do you think of this exchange between God and Job? Does this change or perhaps make you think differently about times when you have questioned God?**
- **Do you think it's fair to question God?**
- If man cannot conquer one of God's creations then how can man stand against God? (Job 41:1-11)
 - ***Read Job 41:1-11***
 - God gives us an illustration of the water beast Leviathan.
 - God tells us in detail that man cannot tame this beast. That it is too strong for us.
 - The exact type of water animal is irrelevant but it was a very large and powerful creature.
 - I find it interesting what scholar's debate about what it is some say it was a crocodile, whale or even a hippo.
 - **But for me as I read verses beginning in 12-28 I think of something else.**
 - **I'm sure it has nothing to do with the fact that I've read all of the Aragon books and the Hobbit.**
 - God asked can you play with it like a bird or put him on a leash for your girls.
 - The meaning of this is to show that Job already knew the answer which was no he could not provoke or stand up to this creation of God.
 - So if man cannot stand against Leviathan then how can man stand against God.
 - God was the creator of this animal like he was the creator of everything else. He alone can control it and make it do as he pleases.
 - So how can man contend with God or argue with God's decisions.
 - In verse 11 God says who confronted me that I should repay him?
 - If man cannot surprise and subdue these creatures whether it be the Behemoth or the Leviathan and compel them to render him services or tame them to be at their beckon call.
 - Then how can man expect to constrain the creator himself to grant him favors that we demand.
 - Paul stated the same thing about God
 - Romans 11:35
 - "Or who has ever first given to Him, and has to be repaid?"
 - Who are we to put God under an obligation to us because of some service we have provided to him.
 - God said "Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine"

- **You see if God’s blessings for us were a matter of debt then that would put God under obligation and it would destroy the benevolence of God’s favors on us.**
- All of the favors that God gives us because of our Salvation must bestow upon us by mercy and grace.
 - The world thinks quit the opposite everyone owes me something.
- God is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end he has the right to bestow his blessings as he chooses.
- Paul’s hymn of praise sums it up
 - Romans 11:33-36
 - “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments and untraceable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord Or who has been His counselor? Or who has ever first given to Him, and has to be repaid? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen”
 - **It is Job’s duty as it is ours to submit to God without complaint and to receive with gratitude everything that God provides for us.**
 - **We must not expect that God should give us something in return for our obedience. It is up God as to when and if he does.**
- **Is the fact that we cannot expect God to give us something for our obedience difficult to comprehend?**
- **Do we sometimes think that they can demand something from God? Or that because we have done something for him that we should be repaid? Do we sometimes try to control God?**
- Job’s reply to the Lord (Job 42:1-6)
 - **Read Job 42:1-6**
 - Job acknowledges that God can do anything as what can be too hard for God as he is the creator of everything:
 - I think God made it pretty clear with everything that was said that he commands the animals, the rain and the lightning.
 - Job had no doubt that nothing was impossible for God.
 - Job humbled himself before God and his attitude about his situation has completely changed.
 - Job realized he had previously spoken of things that he did not fully understand.
 - Previously Job wanted to argue his case before God as to his predicament.
 - Job 13:3
 - “Yet I prefer to speak, to the Almighty and argue my case before God.
 - We know that you cannot argue your case before God, and Job know understands this.
 - Job 13:20-22
 - “Only grant these two things to me, god, so that I will not have to hid from Your presence: remove your hand from me, and do not let your terror frighten me. Then call, and I will answer, or I will speak, and you can respond to me.”
 - Job is giving God instruction, who are we to give God instruction.
 - **What do you think about this, perhaps you have said to God if you do this then I will do such. What do you think about that?**
 - Job was a man of perfect integrity but he was not “perfect”.

- In his time of suffering he felt that God had wronged him and had not provided him justice.
 - Job 19:6-7
 - “Then understand that it is God who has wronged me and caught me in His net. I cry out: “Violence!” but get no response; I call for help, but there is no justice.”
 - **Job didn’t fully understand at the time that he should not question God, because Job could not ever fully comprehend God’s plans.**
 - God’s truth that he spoke to Job opened his eyes that he cannot fully understand God and that his ways are not fully understandable, but he does know more about God now than he did previously.
- Job previously had wanted to debate his situation with God or enter into controversy with God over his treatment.
 - But not know, Job was willing to sit down and receive instruction from God and he earnestly desired that he would teach him of his ways.
 - Job would now listen to God.
 - Job has shown true repentance, he has acknowledged the truth of God because of God’s instruction.
 - 2 Timothy 2:25
 - “Instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth.”
 - Proper instruction from God leads to knowledge of the truth.
 - **How do we get our instruction of truth from God today?**
 - **Reading the Bible**
 - **Through prayer**
 - **We must LISTEN**
 - God’s instruction had opened Job’s eyes.
 - As Job says in verse 5 that “now my eyes have seen you”, this is not in the literal since that God appeared visibly but that he saw God more clearly because of his instruction. Job’s prior knowledge of God didn’t compare to this personal encounter.
- Job repents fully understanding his folly.
 - Job 42:6
 - “Therefore I take back my words and repent in dust and ashes.”
 - God’s presence and God’s Word has produced humility and repentance in Job.
 - This is much like what happened to Simon Peter when he witnessed one of Jesus’s miracles
 - Luke 5:8
 - “When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, because I’m a sinful man, Lord!”
 - Over the course of Job’s speeches he never claimed to be perfect, but he had been caught up with the conception of his own righteousness.
 - As good of a man as he was compared to a pure and holy God he saw that he was utterly vile and nothing in comparison.
 - This is the same state that we as sinners put ourselves before God.

- **A self-confident sinner may be able to argue his position to someone, but when that self-confident sinner meets God he loses his ability to argue and vindicate himself, all he can do is humble himself and ask for mercy from God.**
- God is angry with Job's three friends because they did not speak the truth about God. (Job 42:7-9)
 - We would do well to remember ourselves that we must speak the truth about God.
- God restores Job (Job 42:10-17)
 - God restored all that had been taken away from Job
 - He even gave him more than he had before Satan's accusations and it was all taken away from him.
 - Job has learned that he needs to put all of his trust in God...and God alone.
- Closing
 - The scripture of Job has taught us many things:
 - That a good and righteous person can and will suffer in this life.
 - Job was a man of perfect integrity, who feared God and turned from Evil.
 - Yet he suffered.
 - Likewise we can and will suffer like Job, but God WILL be there every step of the way.
 - The upright person will always be honored by God.
 - Even though we may not understand our afflictions and we may object to what God has in store for us, we must not question God, but faithfully obey all that is asked of us.
 - Even if we do not see the rewards until our death.
 - We learned the importance of maintaining our integrity regardless of what adversities we may endure.
 - It is vital that we maintain our integrity as we go throughout life, from our personal walk with God to our witness to others.
 - If we do not maintain our integrity how are we any different from the world?
 - God is the creator of all things and he is not to be questioned nor can we ever fully understand him.
 - We must put all of our trust in God and be obedient.
 - God is enough
 - My two favorite quotes from Job to live by
 - Job 2:12b
 - "I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily food."
 - Job 27:5b
 - "I will maintain my integrity until I die"