

VEXATIONS OF JOB! Part 3

Scripture: Job. 16: 19-21

*19 Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven,
And my advocate is on high.*

*20 My friends are my scoffers.
My eye weeps to God.*

*21 O that a man might plead with God
As a man with his neighbor!*

Introduction:

I just want to touch upon a couple of passages from Eliphaz speech briefly from chapter 15 and then move to chapter 16 to study Job's speech.

*Job 15:6 6 Your own mouth condemns you, and not I;
And your own lips testify against you.
Here Eliphaz criticizes the words of Job.*

How does Job's own lips condemn him and testify against him?

By forsaking the fear of God, and refraining from pleading and praying to the Lord, Job started attacking God boldly with his words. Job denied through many words that he did not commit any sin at all, and he refused to repent. Eliphaz charges Job with self-conceit and pride because Job was out of control and he spoke very rude, bitter words against God! He also accused Job with contempt of the counsels and comforts given him by his own friends. It is true, Job started mocking his friends' counseling!

Eliphaz tries to bring more authority to his counseling through the following words!!

*Job 15:10,11 10 Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us,
Older than your father.
11 Are the consolations of God too small for you,
Even the word spoken gently with you.*

It is interesting to note that some of Job's friends were older than Job's father, and they insisted that their consoling words were from God Himself, and they were spoken gently to him? Job seemed to trash their words! We tend to use God's name to bring more authority to the Word. Many modern prophets do that. Do not go by what they say. Go by what they do.

Let us hear some of Job's rebuttal now from chapter 16 and 17.

*Job 16:2-5. 2 I have heard many such things.
Sorry comforters are you all.
3 Is there no limit to windy words?
Or what plagues you that you answer?
4 I too could speak like you,
If I were in your place.
I could compose words against you
And shake my head at you.
5 I could strengthen you with my mouth,
And the solace of my lips could lessen your pain.*

After Eliphaz's accusation, Job was not taken back! He punches back harder with his words! He tells them that he had heard enough, and they were indeed sorry comforters! Job scolds them and says that if he were in their shoes, he could counsel both ways better than them. He could use stronger words and shake his head at them, and tear them down, as his friends did, or he can be a great comforter by using the appropriate words to comfort them and reduce their pain, (which they did not do!)

Isn't it strange? It is the same tongue that can either hurt people or comfort them! Can you learn to speak comforting words rather than hurting words? Examine yourself, your tone, your anger level, your harsh rhetoric, and hurting remarks? We are all guilty of these things. Learn to speak edifying words, and if you must rebuke, rebuke gently. Do not try to smash the head of the perpetrator.

*Job 16:6,7.6 If I speak, my pain is not lessened,
And if I hold back, what has left me?
7 But now He has exhausted me.
You have laid waste all my company.*

If Job tries to correct his friends through his words, it only infuriates them even more, and they cause even more pain through sharp arrows of their words. But if he keeps quiet, he suppresses his anger, and that hurts him even more!

Also, if Job is silent, and submits himself without a complaint, the situation remains the same. Neither silence, nor argument, nor pleading, helps him much before God or man. The suffering remains the same! He has the same pain! He complained now that he is too exhausted or wearied because God has taken away all his children, family members, and friends. Few friends who came to console now had also become more hostile and were trying to hurt him rather than comfort him. What a horrible situation! Life may be rough for some of us, but it may never be that hard as Job experienced. Thank God for your daily serene peace that God has given you!

*Job 16:10,11. 10 They have gaped at me with their mouth,
They have slapped me on the cheek with contempt.
They have massed themselves against me.
11 God hands me over to ruffians*

And tosses me into the hands of the wicked.

Job's friends did not come to comfort him, but to blame and accuse him! They have slapped him on the cheek, with contempt. Did they really do that? Perhaps some other friend!

*Job 16:18,19. 18 O earth, do not cover my blood,
And let there be no resting place for my cry.
19 Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven,
And my advocate is on high.*

Job did not want his shed blood to be covered. Why? He wanted it to remain as a witness for this unjust brutality. He never wanted to stop crying, "foul".

His witness in heaven is God Himself, and He cannot overlook his innocent blood shed. Just like God heard the cry of Abel's innocent blood, He would see Job's innocent blood also, and will eventually clear his name and vindicate him. But if you remember, God had instructed the devil, not to touch his life. Blood is the seat of that life. Pouring down blood is synonymous with pouring down life, and God will not allow that to happen!

*Job 16:20-22.20 My friends are my scoffers;
My eye weeps to God.
21 O that a man might plead with God
As a man with his neighbor!
22 For when a few years are past,
I shall go the way of no return.*

Here again, Job yearns for a mediator between him and God! How fortunate we are! We have indeed a mediator, a high priest who has taken the blows of God upon Himself, and in His stripes, we are healed. What a lovely Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ! I wish, Job had known him. He would have never talked like this! Let us not take our savior for granted!

Job wisely says that he shall go the way of no return. It is true! Passage to Death is a one way! We can never make a 'U' turn and come back to this life again. We have to keep moving to a point of no return and go to a destination that is reserved for us by our God.

Let me move to chapter 17 and address couple of interesting passages and stop.

*Job 17: 7-9. 7 My eye has also grown dim because of grief,
And all my members are as a shadow.
8 The upright will be appalled at this,
And the innocent will stir up himself against the godless.*

9 Nevertheless the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will grow stronger and stronger.

Job's eyes were becoming dim because of excessive crying, and the salty teardrops dried up around his eyes. No strength even to wipe them because he must have been so weak, and his body parts may have become more like skeletons.

The upright will be appalled by it because they must be wondering why such a horrible thing happened to such a nice guy! Also, the innocent will be motivated to walk even more upright than before because if these things could happen to Job, who was supposed to be a very righteous person, what will happen to them? Jesus, while carrying the cross, said similar words to those women who were crying, I am just paraphrasing Jesus words: "women, don't cry for my situation, but cry for yourself! If this happens to the green wood, what will happen to the dry! (Wood). Luke 23:31

So, the innocent will become stronger after seeing Job's plight. I guess, they will try to be more careful in staying in the path of righteousness.

*Job 17: 13-16.13 If I look for Sheol (Sheh-ole) my home,
I make my bed in the darkness.
14If I call to the pit, You are my father .
To the worm, my mother and my sister .
15Where now is my hope?
And who regards my hope?
16 Will it go down with me to Sheol?
Shall we together go down into the dust?"*

This is a very important verse. It portrays Job's perspective of his belief beyond death! If Sheol (Sheh-ole) is Job's ultimate end, and the worms cleanup all his flesh, and his bones become dust later, what happens to the hope of trusting in God? Does this hope follow us to Sheol (Sheh-ole') and lie down with us forever? Will our hope perish in the dust too? A very good question! Paul tells us clearly that love, faith, hope is eternal! They will never perish.

This was Job's belief beyond death. But next week, we will see an important change in Job's perspective: he suddenly says, "my redeemer liveth!" How come? What is Job's belief on life after death? We will see that next week.

Let me summarize today's message with the following important points:

Conclusion:

1. Guard your tongue. Out of the abundance of our heart our mouth speaks. Tongue can be used to edify or tear down. We will be judged by Jesus by our own words and actions!
2. Do not use God's name in vain. Do not go around telling people that God is speaking through you, when He is not. That is a blatant lie and deception.
3. There is a need for Mediator between God and man. Job realized that intuitively. Every man knows deep inside that there is a God. But he refuses to believe it.
4. Death is one way. You can never come back. There is no such thing called reincarnation as Hindu religion teaches. Death is a door to other side of the spiritual world.
5. There is indeed eternal life beyond death for those who are in Christ.

**Are you in Christ?
Is He your redeemer, your Savior, your Lord?**

Examine yourself.

Daniel Israel
pastor@acts242church.org
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