



Sunday, November 18, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Job 33:1-28

Ecclesiastes 10:14 says, “fools multiply words.” Certainly, Job’s friends had multiplied their words against him. But on the flip side, Job himself had multiplied words in defense of himself. At a time when words are multiplied all around, it is helpful to have a singular voice of reason prevail. That is what happens to Job and his friends. Ironically, it is the youngest person in the conversation who brings the most sober perspective on the situation.

Elihu criticizes Job’s friends because they condemned Job without really knowing what was going on. He explains how they have played the part of fools in multiplying accusations against Job while not offering anything to substantiate their claims. But he then turns to Job himself for his main critique. Job had been blameless and undeserving of the kind of suffering he was enduring, and yet in his defense (and in his own ignorance), he had failed to consider carefully who God is. Elihu rebukes Job because he ought to have considered the immensity and magnitude of God before seeking to justify himself the way he had. Job, despite his prior purity of character, learned greater obedience through what he suffered.

Context

This passage is in the middle of the first of a four-part speech given by Elihu. After each of Job’s other friends make a speech or accusation, Job gives a rebuttal. But here, Elihu speaks uninterrupted. His speech is centered around the character of God and the finite understanding of humanity. Not only does this speech seem to settle the swirling ignorance of the previous speeches, but it also serves as a prelude to the appearance of God Himself—previously “silent”—who will offer His own assessment of things as the book reaches a climax in chapters 38-42.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Job 33:1-28

“God Is Not Unjust”

Key Ideas

- 1) Job’s friends had condemned him without good reason.
- 2) Job had sought to justify himself rather than God.
- 3) Elihu was compelled by the Spirit to speak to them.
- 4) God is greater than we think.
- 5) God spoke in dreams back then and still can, but the way God speaks to us is through the Bible.
- 6) “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain.” – C.S. Lewis
- 7) We must learn to sing in the midst of our suffering.
- 8) To sing in the darkness, you have to know the song.
- 9) God speaks to us in the storms of life.
- 10) God is not punishing you for your sin. He is protecting you from your sin.

Discuss

- 1) Elihu criticized Job for trying to justify himself rather than God. How can we become more concerned with God's reputation than our own?
- 2) Why do we tend to underestimate God?
- 3) What passages in the Bible have been most comforting to you when going through times of suffering? Why?
- 4) How does knowing how Jesus suffered help us in the midst of our suffering?
- 5) How have you seen God transform your character (or someone else close to you) through different seasons of suffering?