



Lesson 5

Job 16–19



Introduction

- The first cycle included speeches from Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, and responses each time from Job (chs. 4–14).
- Chapter 15, which we covered last week, began the second cycle of speeches (started over with Eliphaz). Tonight...
- Job's response is recorded in chapters 16–17, followed by Bildad's second speech in ch. 18, and then another response from Job in ch. 19.



Things to Look For

- The hurt and disappointment Job feels concerning those who scorn him, mock him, ignore him, find him repulsive, abandon him.
- Uses various analogies to illustrate how God “counts me as one of His enemies” (19:11).
- And yet talks about how the righteous see these inequities but still hold fast, and even grow stronger and stronger (17:6–9). Contrasts this with the lack of understanding his friends have.
- A great statement of hope (19:23–29).



Job's Fourth Response

- I keep hearing the same old thing. You are a sorry (miserable) bunch of comforters. Do your empty words have an end? (recall 15:2: “should a wise man answer with empty words?”). What exactly provokes you to say such things? If I were in your place, I *could* say the same things, but I wouldn't. I would say things to strengthen you and lessen your pain (16:1–5).



Job's Fourth Response

- Speaking doesn't relieve my grief, but neither would silence. God has worn me out, destroyed my company (see 19:13–19), filled me with wrinkles (KJV). My lean, shriveled up body testifies against me (16:6–8).



Job's Fourth Response

- God has torn me apart like a savage beast; He has betrayed me into the hands of the wicked; He has taken me by the neck and shaken me to pieces; He has made me target practice for His archers; and like a besieging army, he breaks through me with “breach after breach” (NAS) (think of breaches in a wall caused by a battering ram (16:9–14)).



Job's Fourth Response

- I have sewn sackcloth on my face; I have cried until my face is flushed and my eyelids dark. How can this be, when there is no violence in my hands and my prayer is pure? (16:15–17).
- Ground, do not hide my blood! Let my cry be heard! My witness is in heaven. My friends scoff, but my cry is to God, not them. If I could only plead with God the way a man pleads with his neighbor, for my time is short (16:18–22).



Job's Fourth Response

- My spirit is broken; my days are few; the grave is ready for me. Mockers are all around me, and my eye is fixed on their provocation. God, please do what no one else can do—be security for me. My friends will not win, for you have concealed understanding from them. “He who informs against friends for a share of the spoil, the eyes of his children also will languish” (NAS) (17:1–5).



Job's Fourth Response

- God has made me a byword, one on whom men spit. It's hard to see through my tears and my body is wasting away. Upright men are appalled at this, and stirred up against the godless. Yet, they **hold fast** and become stronger and stronger (17:6–9).
- Come back, all of you, for I will not find one wise man among you. My days are past, the desires of my heart gone. My only hope now is the grave (17:10–16). *Mother and father?*



Bildad's Second Speech

- How long will you keep speaking (hunt for words)? Gain some understanding and then we can talk. Why do you count us as beasts, as men who have no sense? You who tear yourself in anger, should everything be changed to accommodate you? Is that even possible? (18:1-4).



Bildad's Second Speech

- The wicked man—he is the one who suffers. He has no light; his strength diminishes; his own counsel is his downfall; he is surrounded by snares. Terrors frighten him on every side; his strength is exhausted; he is ravaged by disease (skin in v. 13); his tent is destroyed. Memories of him are forgotten, and he leaves no children behind. From east to west, everyone is horrified by him. This is what happens to one who does not know God (18:5–21).



Job's Fifth Response

- How long will you torment me? Ten times you have insulted me, and you're not ashamed of it. You exalt yourselves against me, but please understand, if I have sinned, it is known only to me. God has wronged me; He has closed His net around me (19:1–6).



Job's Fifth Response

- I cry out for help, but there is no justice. God has walled me up so I cannot pass; He has set darkness in my paths. He has stripped me of honor, broken me down on every side, uprooted my hope like a tree, and brought His troops against me. He counts me as one of His enemies (19:7–12).



Job's Fifth Response

- God has taken away my brothers, acquaintances, relatives, and all my close friends. People in my own house treat me like a stranger. My servants ignore me. My breath is offensive to my wife; my own brothers find me repulsive; young children despise me; those whom I love have turned against me. My bone clings to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. Pity me, don't persecute me, for God has struck me! (19:13–22).



Job's Fifth Response

- Oh, that my words were written in a book, that they were engraved forever on a rock! I know my Redeemer lives, and that at last He will stand upon the earth. Even after my flesh is destroyed, I will see God. This is the thought that consumes me. Friends, if you continue to persecute me, you had better be afraid of God's wrath (19:23–29).