



# Review of Lessons 4-6

## Job 12-25

Fair to say Job is fed up with his friends?



The following statements attest to that.

# Job, concerning his friends

- “No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you” (12:2).
- “You forgers of lies (“you smear with lies”—NAS), you are all worthless physicians” (13:4).
- “Your platitudes are proverbs of ashes, your defenses are defenses of clay” (13:12).
- “Miserable comforters are you all!” (16:2).
- “Are not mockers with me? And does not my eye dwell on their provocations?” (17:2).

# Job, concerning his friends

- “Please, come back again, all of you, for I shall not find one wise man among you” (17:10).
- “How long will you torment me and crush me with words? These ten times you have insulted me; you are not ashamed to wrong me” (19:2–3, NAS).
- “Why do you persecute me as God does?” (19:22).
- “Look, I know your thoughts, and the schemes with which you would wrong me” (21:27).

# Why does Job feel this way?

1. The lack of pity from them, for someone whose grief was so great he had sewn sackcloth over his skin (16:15).
  - “Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends” (19:21).
  - What they saw as consolation (15:11), Job saw as mocking, ridicule, reproach, persecution.
  - Job contends that he would speak much differently to them if they were in his place (16:4–5).

# Why does Job feel this way?

2. The fact they considered him among the wicked.
  - They started off with insinuations, generalizations, but then became more specific (Eliphaz: 22:4–11).
  - Job maintained innocence: “I am a laughingstock to my friends; I, who called on God and he answered me, a just and blameless man, am a laughingstock” (12:4, ESV).
  - Believed God would vindicate him: “I have prepared my case, I know I shall be vindicated” (13:18)...“I would be acquitted forever by my judge (23:7, ESV).

# Why does Job feel this way?

3. Their false statements about the wicked, which we will deal with in the next several slides.

# Concerning the Wicked



Point—Counter Point

# Concerning the Wicked (Friends)

- **Eliphaz:** “The wicked man writhes in pain all his days...trouble and anguish make him afraid...he will not be rich...will not depart from darkness” (15:20, 24, 29–30).
- **Bildad:** “The steps of his strength are shortened...terrors frighten him on every side...he is uprooted from the shelter of his tent...he is driven from light into darkness...has neither son nor posterity among his people” (18:7, 11, 14, 18–19).

# Concerning the Wicked (Friends)

- **Zophar:** “The triumphing of the wicked is short...will not see the streams, the rivers flowing with honey and cream...knows no quietness in his heart...when he is about to fill his stomach, God will cast on him the fury of His wrath” (20:5, 17, 20, 23).

# Concerning the Wicked (Job)

- **Job, previously:** “The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not He, who else could it be? (9:24).
- **Job:** “The tents of robbers prosper, and those who provoke God are secure—in what God provides by His hand” (12:6).

# Concerning the Wicked (Job)

- **Job:** “Why do the wicked live and become old, yes, become mighty in power?...descendants are established...their houses safe from fear...their children dance...they sing to the tambourine and harp...spend their days in wealth...how often is the lamp of the wicked put out?...one dies in his full strength, being wholly at ease and secure...another man dies in the bitterness of his soul” (21:7–8, 11–13, 17, 23–25).

# Concerning the Wicked (Job)

- **Job:** “Some remove landmarks...seize flocks violently...push the needy off the road...cause the poor to go naked...yet God does not charge them with wrong” (“does not pay attention”—NAS) (24:2, 4, 10, 13).

# Question

- If the wicked sometimes DO prosper in this life, and the righteous sometimes DON'T, what then should we emphasize when we teach the gospel—the benefits in this life, or the next?
- The DEFINING promise in the gospel is eternal redemption in Jesus Christ.
  - Not that we sweep aside 1 Timothy 4:8.
- This promise can sustain us through **WHATEVER** we face in this life.

# The Ups and Downs of Job



At times he despairs of hope;  
other times he clings to it.

# Despairs of Hope

- “There is **hope** for a tree, if it is cut down, that will sprout again...at the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches...but man dies and is laid away...he breathes his last and where is he?...man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake nor be roused from their sleep” (14:7, 9–10, 12).
- “As water wears away stones...so You destroy the **hope** of man” (14:19).

# Despairs of Hope

- “My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart...Where then is my **hope**? As for my **hope**, who can see it?” (17:11, 15).
- “He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone; my **hope** He has uprooted like a tree” (19:10).

# Clings to Hope

- “Oh that You would hide me in the grave, that You would conceal me until Your wrath is past, that You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; **You shall desire the work of Your hands**” (14:13–15).

# Clings to Hope

- “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” (19:25–27).

Job believes that God has inflicted all this suffering on him, that God is treating him like an enemy.

And yet, Job is determined to hold fast to God.

Thought question: What is the key to Job holding fast to God NOW, under such incredibly difficult circumstances?

# God treats me like His enemy

- “He has worn me out...shriveled me up...He tears me in His wrath, and **hates me**...He also has taken me by my neck and shaken me...set me up for His target...runs at me like a warrior...” (16:7–14).
- “He has made me a byword of the people...one in whose face men spit” (17:6).
- “He has...kindled His wrath against me, and he counts me as one of His enemies (19:11).

# And yet...

- “Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him” (13:15).
- “He has made me a byword of the people...one in whose face men spit...yet the righteous will hold to his way...he who has clean hands will become stronger and stronger” (17:6, 9).
- “My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food” (23:11–12).

# Magnitude of Job's Suffering

- Brothers, acquaintances, relatives, close friends, servants, wife, small children—none of them wanted anything to do with him (19:13–19).
- Further insight into Job's suffering, in particular his emotional distress.
- Contrast: “Men listened to me and waited, and kept silence for my counsel. After my words they did not speak again, and my speech settled on them as dew” (29:21–22, see also 29:7–11).

# Speaking for God

- “Will you speak falsely for God and speak deceitfully for Him?...Will it be well with you when He searches you out?...” (ESV) (13:7, 9).
- We sure better be careful when speaking for God. “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11).

# Wisdom and Age

- “Does not the ear test words and the mouth taste its food? Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding” (12:11–12).
- Wisdom doesn’t necessarily come with age; it comes to those who “test” and “taste”— “those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14).

# Kudos to Eliphaz on This One

- **Eliphaz:** “Yield now and be at peace with Him; thereby good will come to you...you will be restored...the Almighty will be your gold and choice silver to you...you will pray to Him, and He will hear you...the humble person He will save” (22:21, 25, 27, 29).
- Wise words from Eliphaz, even though they didn't apply to Job's situation.