

THE BOOK OF JOB

Lesson 4 – Chapters 9-11

Beginning with Job 9, the emphasis of the discussion is the justice of God. Job struggles for answers to questions like: *How can a man be righteous before God? How can I answer God?* And to summarize many of the questions of Job 11, *Why was I born?* Although God does not answer all of our “why” questions, He does answer many of them in the Bible. God doesn’t answer Job now, but He will later, and God’s answer to Job will be His own integrity. Although Job did not understand the LORD’s reasons, he continued to trust His goodness. As you read Job’s questions this week, many of which you may have asked yourself, may you grow, as Job did, in your trust of the Lord.

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse is:

*“He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.” Psalm 103:10*

Read Job 9:1-13.

1. We know Job agreed with Bildad’s general premise in Chapter 8, that God rewards the righteous and corrects or judges sinners, by his reply to Bildad’s statements in Job 9:2, *“Truly, I know it is so.”* But Job then countered Bildad with a question. What was it?

- a. The psalmist asked a similar question in Psalm 130:3. What was it?
- b. Record the glorious answer of Psalm 130:4

2. Job was essentially asking how can sinful man be considered righteous and not guilty before God. *Job’s question is the most important question in the world!* Job is beginning to understand that because God is a holy God, man has need of a Savior, as we all must!

- a. If someone asked you this question, how would you answer? Include scriptures.
- b. What do you find in Titus 3:5-7 that helps with the answer to this question?

3. Consider Job's statement in Job 9:3, "*If one wished to contend with Him, he could not answer Him one time out of a thousand.*"

a. What do you think this statement means?

b. Even knowing the truth of this statement, we will see that Job does contend with God, as we sometimes do. Why do you think this is?

4. Record Job's second question of the chapter from Job 9:4.

5. Job goes on to explain why the answer to his question from verse 2, "*But how can a man be righteous before God?*", is *no one*. Scan through Job's statements about God in verses 5-13.

a. List some attributes of God you find in Job's list, or simply choose a few lines that reflect them and write them below.

b. What attributes of God does Job seem to be ignoring?

c. What can be the results of not considering the entire character of God?

Read Job 9:14-35.

1. In Job 9:14-20, Job wonders how he can answer such a mighty God.

a. From verses 15 and 20, what does he say about the righteous man?

b. Do you agree these statements? Why or why not?

2. What do you find about righteousness in the following scriptures?

a. Isaiah 61:10

b. Romans 3:21-22

c. Romans 10:4

3. Job seems to think God is not approachable. Living in the New Testament truths, we have a different understanding

a. What are we reminded of in Hebrews 4:16?

b. What else can you add from your own understanding or additional scriptures?

4. Job 9:21-24 reflects Job's confusion about his present relationship with God. He goes on to express the futility he feels in verses 25-31.

a. Choose a few of his statements that express his feelings of futility and write them below.

b. Last week we looked at several scriptures that offer hope. Choose one of those or choose any scripture of your choice on hope and write it below.

c. How would this scripture help if you felt the futility Job does?

5. In Job 9:33 we find a solution that Job thinks might work, but states it is not available.

a. Complete his statement from verse 33 below.

Nor is there _____

Who may _____.

b. The wonderful thing is that God has supplied that *mediator*. From 1 John 2:1, Who is that *mediator*?

c. Reflecting on Job's hopelessness, what are your thoughts when you consider the fact that Job's desire has been met in Jesus, not only for Job, but for you and for all who call upon Him?

Read Job 10.

If you can, read Chapter 10 out loud and listen to the desperate, yet poetic words.

1. Chapter 10 begins with another discouraging statement of Job's thoughts in verse 1 when he says, "*My soul loathes my life...*" As a result, from this same verse, what two things did Job decide to do?

2. From personal experience, describe the effects of giving bitterness free reign to speak.

3. What do the following scriptures say about bitterness?

a. Acts 8:23

b. Ephesians 4:31

c. Hebrews 12:15

We have seen here how bitterness is destructive. If going through this chapter has shown you a place of bitterness in your own heart, stop now and take it to the Lord. Ask Him to take it away and soften your heart, and He will.

4. What truth is slipped in the middle of his thoughts in verses 8, 12 and 13?

a. Job 10:8

b. Job 10:12

c. Job 10:13

As we read this chapter, it's good to remember these are Job's thoughts, but what he knows to be true seems to slip in. We may have experienced this in a trial, that even in our pain and confusion, we can remember the truths we know about God, and looking to those truths can bring us out of despair and discouragement. Whether for ourselves or as counsel to another in the midst of a trial, this is a good reminder to turn our mind to the Truth, for that is where you will find your hope.

Read Job 11.

We will now hear from Zophar the Naamathite. This friend of Job's has fewer words than the others, only heard in Job 11 and 20, but his words to Job are haughty and contentious. Zophar seems to be giving Job a doctrine lesson, some of which is true, but none of which applies to Job's situation.

1. From Job 11:2-3, how did Zophar describe Job's words?

2. What claim did Zophar say Job made in verse 4?
 - a. What did Job himself say about this in Job 9:2 and 9:28? (add other scriptures if you like)

 - b. What was God's view of Job from Job 1:1, 1:8, and 2:3?

 - c. Judging from the verses above, Zophar's words don't seem to be accurate. How would you describe Job's attitude about his righteousness before God?

3. *But, oh that God would speak...*verse 5. According to Job 11:5,6, what did Zophar think God would show Job?

4. Write out the last sentence in Job 11:6 below.
 - a. In what ways is this a true statement and applicable to mankind?

 - b. In what way is this not applicable to Job?

5. Read Job 11:7-8 and write this thought in your own words below.

6. Consider Job 11:7-11.

a. What does Isaiah 55:8-9 say about this?

b. What more does 1 Corinthians 2:16 add that explains a deeper understanding for us?

7. Zophar's words to Job in verse 12 are insulting, even sarcastic, and certainly not helpful.

a. In your own words, or using a modern translation, rewrite what Zophar said to Job in this verse.

b. What effect would these words have on someone in despair?

8. In Job 11:13-19 Zophar gives an "if, then" statement, telling Job what he must do to get certain results.

a. Complete the thought of the "If" statement from verses 13 and 14 below.

If you _____

b. Using verses 15-19, list the "then", or the results Zophar promised.

9. If Job does not do what Zophar is saying, then Zophar includes Job with the wicked.

a. In Job 11:20, what does Zophar say is the *hope* of the *wicked*?

b. How does Romans 6:23 support this statement?

c. What does Romans 6:23 add as the hope of the redeemed?

In closing...

1. As you consider Job's statements in Chapters 9 and 10, in what way would you describe how he is handling his distress?

2. George Bradley said of Job's friends: "They misapplied the most precious truths and the most edifying of doctrines; turned wholesome food to poison; pressed upon their friend those half-truths, which are sometimes the worst of untruths."

Considering the counsel of Job's friends that you have read so far, what have you learned about better ways to come alongside a person who is hurting?

Memory Verse

*"He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities."
Psalm 103:10*