

THE BOOK OF JOB

Lesson 3 – Chapters 6-8

As Job's friends spoke to him, they did not misquote God as much as they misunderstood Him. Job responded with two passionate appeals. First, he appealed to his friends that they might show more understanding and sympathy. Secondly, he appealed to God, that He would consider his plight and lighten his sufferings. May we seek to know God and others before we speak what we believe to be God's wisdom.

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is:

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Proverbs 25:11

Read Job 6:1-13.

1. Job 6 begins with the words, "*Then Job answered and said...*" Look back and remember what you read in Chapters 4 and 5.

- a. Who was Job answering?

- b. Put in a few words what this friend had said to Job.

2. Job now attempts to speak words that might help Eliphaz to better see his distress. From Job 6:2-4, how did he describe his *grief* and *calamity*?

3. Keep in mind that Job is a Book written in poetry as you read Job 6:5-7 describing Job's feelings.

- a. From this place of misery, what request does Job make of God in verses 8 and 9?

- b. In Job 6:10, what does Job say this will do for him?

4. But God has not granted Job's request. Job 6:11-13 is again a poetic expression of his condition.

- a. What do you see in these verses?

- b. What does he feel he is lacking in these verses?

5. In Psalm 42:11, David seemed to feel some of the same things as Job. How did he encourage himself in this verse?

6. What do you find in the following scriptures that would encourage someone feeling as Job is feeling?

- a. Jeremiah 29:11

- b. Isaiah 40:31

- c. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (Keep in mind what Paul suffered and now calls *light affliction!*)

- d. List other verses that speak of the hope we have in God.

7. Job does find the answer for himself later, in Job 19:25-27. Write what you find in these verses below.

Read Job 6:14-30.

1. Read Job's expectations of friends in Job 6:14.
 - a. What would Job want from his friends in his affliction?

 - b. From Job 6:15-21, how did Job see what Eliphaz offered?

2. Write out the last phrase of Job 6:21 below

a. What does this mean to you? Remember, this describes Job's friends.

b. How would this effect the way someone would react in the presence of an afflicted person?

3. In Job 6:22-26, Job challenges Eliphaz with a series of questions. Summarize what Job is challenging of Eliphaz's behavior, or write two of the questions that sum up the meaning of these verses to you.

4. In Job 6:27 Job makes a statement. How does he describe what Eliphaz did with his words?

5. Notice that Job's challenges to Eliphaz were all demands for proof of his accusations. In Job 6:28-30 we now read of Job's declarations about himself.

a. What statement did Job make about himself in verse 28?

b. Aside from his challenges to Eliphaz, Job's chief concern was something he wanted him to concede (admit) about his situation. From verse 29, what was it?

Read Job Chapter 7.

1. In Job 7:1-5, Job describes how he views his life.

a. Use a few of the words that Job used to describe his life as a summary of these verses.

b. Job lamented his wearisome nights. What is it like to lie awake most or all of the night?

c. King David could also relate to sleepless nights. What did he say in Psalm 6:6?

2. In Job 7:6-10, Job mourns the futility of life. Some of his statements are true; some are not. Record one true statement and one false statement.

True:

False:

a. Why do you think we say things that aren't true or that we don't mean when we hurt?

b. How should you respond to someone who makes false statements when they hurt?

3. In verse 7 Job says, "*Oh, remember that my life is a breath!*"

a. What does James 4:14 say about this?

b. Job says this in hopelessness, but how could remembering this help in the midst of a difficult time?

4. The book of Job uses the word *hope* 16 times, but most of them refer to a lack of hope or a loss of hope. Job's friends seem to offer him no hope. With our New Testament understanding, what hope do you have to offer one who feels hopeless?

5. In Job 7:11-16, Job directed his complaint to God. This is where we are often tempted to step in and rebuke someone for speaking as Job did, but in verse 11 Job tells us the source of the words he is about to speak.

a. Complete the following statements from this verse.

I will speak in _____.

I will complain in _____.

b. Define anguish.

c. Define bitterness.

d. What might you say to someone in such anguish and bitterness?

6. In Job 7:17-18 Job asked a question with four parts. Write the first part of the question below.

What is man, that You should _____ ?

a. Looking only at this part of Job's question, what does this mean to you?

b. Complete the second part of verse 17.

...that You should _____ ?

c. In what ways has God set His heart on you?

7. Now we will look at the rest of Job's question. Write the last two parts from verse 18 below.

...that You should _____

And _____ ?

a. What does this reveal about how Job is thinking at this point of his trial?

b. From Lamentations 3:22-23, write the very different view of what God offers us every morning.

c. From Psalm 68:19, what does the Lord give daily and how have you personally experienced this?

8. Read Psalm 8:4-5 and Hebrews 2:6-7. What perspective do these scriptures offer on the question Job asked?

Chapter 7 closes with more questions. Job could not understand why he seemed to be God's target. When we feel as Job did, even though we know we should not question God, the best thing to do is to bring our questions to Lord. As we will see later in the Book of Job, God will answer those questions.

Read Job 8.

1. *Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said...* The first words out of Bildad's mouth were those of judgment regarding Job's words. What was Bildad saying about Job in Job 8:2-3?

2. In Job 8:4 Bildad makes a strong statement and one that would certainly not encourage Job. In your own words, what was he saying?

3. Job 8:5-7 gives us conditional statements spoken by Bildad. Read verse 5-7 and sum up these verses by completing the "If..., then..." statements below.

a. If you...

b. Then God would...

c. What's wrong with this statement?

d. Share a scripture that supports your thought.

4. In Job 8:8-10 Bildad challenged Job to consider ancient wisdom.

a. What must you consider as you look to the ways and wisdom of those who have gone before us?

b. Share an example of wisdom you have gleaned from the experience of an older person?

c. Can you think of an example of bad advice from someone older?

d. Where would you tell someone to look for wisdom?

5. In Job 8:11-18 we are reminded of the poetry of this Book. The first line of verse 13 gives us the core of what Bildad is describing in these verses. Write this statement below.

a. Considering this statement, what truth do you find in verses 11-18?

b. Why is this truth not applicable to Job?

6. In contrast, Job 8:19-22 recounts God's blessings upon the blameless. What blessings do you find in these verses?

In closing...

1. Reflect upon Job's expressions of despair in Job 6. What did you get from this lesson that would help you to encourage someone in despair or depression?

2. Job asked God some hard questions at the end of Chapter 8. Why is it good to seek and wait upon God's answers to our hard questions?

3. What can you take away from this lesson as you consider the counsel of Job's friend?

Memory Verse

*"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver".
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