

THE BOOK OF JOB

Lesson 6 – Job 15-18

“How rarely we weigh our neighbor in the same balance in which we weigh ourselves.”—Thomas A. Kempis. During this second round of speeches, the fire becomes hotter as the three friends focus more on proving Job wrong than on giving Job help. We find Job stating that he is giving up, yet we see him still hoping for an answer beyond himself. Praise God that He has provided that answer as we hope in Jesus.

Begin your study with prayer...

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse is:

*“... for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good,
and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” Matthew 5:45*

Read Job 15.

1. After listening to Job’s defense in Chapters 12-14, Eliphaz steps forward a second time with fervor against Job’s words. How did he describe Job’s words in Job 15:2-6?
2. In Job 15:4, Eliphaz accused Job of *restraining prayer*. Let’s think about what this is.
 - a. Define the word *restrain*.
 - b. Considering Chapter 14, do you see evidence of Job doing this? Share a verse that you used to find this answer.
 - c. What are some reasons one might *restrain prayer* in a situation like Job’s?
 - d. How would this affect your attitude in a difficult situation?
3. In Job 15:8, Eliphaz asks, “*Do you limit wisdom to yourself?*” And yet it is the very thing he and his friends seem to do, thinking they had wisdom and Job did not.
 - a. Where can we find the only true wisdom?

b. From James 3:17, what does the wisdom of God look like?

4. The question posed in Job 15:11 is, “*Are the consolations of God too small for you...?*” David Guzik comments on this verse: “It is important to remember that Eliphaz considered the consolations of God to be the advice of he and his friends. He assumed that if Job rejected their advice, he was rejecting God’s consolations. Therefore, he thought that Job had turned his spirit against God.”

a. What is consolation? Define it consolation and comfort below.

b. How would you describe the words and counsel of Job’s friends?

5. Eliphaz did not understand the consolation of God, but we can find it in God’s Word. What do the following scriptures say about God’s comfort and consolation?

a. Psalm 94:19

b. Matthew 11:28

c. 2 Corinthians 1:5

d. Add a scripture in which you have found the comfort or consoling of God.

The rest of the chapter describes the view of Job’s friends on what comes to the wicked. Again, there is some truth in these verses, but not as applied to Job. There is also error, in the assumption that all the wicked suffer on this earth. God does judge the wicked, but we can rejoice in the salvation He offers through Christ!

Read Job 16.

1. In Chapter 16 we again have Job’s response to the words of Eliphaz in the previous chapter.

a. How did Job aptly describe his friends in verse 2?

b. In Job 16:5, what did Job say he would do instead?

c. What *strengthening words* do you look for in times of distress?

2. In his confusion, Job believed that God had *worn him out* (verse 7). In Job 16:6-14, Job made several untrue observations of what he believed, in his pain, to be God's role in his *grief*.

a. Verse 9 seems to give the root of Job's misguided view of God's heart toward him. Sum up this verse with a few words.

b. Considering how Job describes his condition in verses 7 and 8, why do you think he might be saying some of these things about God?

c. What characteristics of God do you think Job needed to remember?

3. As we study the Book of Job, it is important to take it as a whole and not take any one verse alone. We see Job's struggle through his own thoughts and conditions by comparing his words in Job 16:9 with his words in other places. What views of God do you see in Job's words from the verses below?

a. Job 13:16

b. Job 19:25

4. Even though we see Job's struggle with his thoughts and views of God, what appropriate responses do you see in Job 16:15-17?

5. From Job 16:19, what hope do you see in Job's words?

Read Job 17.

1. Remembering that there were no chapters and verses in the original writing, we can see that Job's thoughts from Job 16:22 are continued in Job 17:1. Choose one phrase from these verses to describe where Job's thoughts are at this point.

2. Job 17:2 turns again to his friends.

a. What word does he use in this verse again to describe his friends?

b. Because his thoughts are so focused on his friends, where does this verse tell us Job's *eye dwells*?

c. Define *provocation*.

d. How would this effect Job's attitude?

3. What do the following verses say about where our eyes should dwell?

a. Psalm 25:15

b. Psalm 141:8

c. Colossians 3:2

d. Philippians 4:8

e. How would keeping our eyes on these things help in a time of trial?

4. We can see how Job feels he is looked at by others from Job 17:6-8.

a. Describe his feeling by writing a few of the phrases below.

b. From Job 17:9, what hope does he seem to see?

5. As we read this chapter, we could say Job feels *humiliated*.

a. Write a definition of *humiliated* here.

- b. How did Job's friends *humiliate* him?
 - c. What is the difference between the two words from the same root, *humbled* and *humiliated*?
 - d. We are told it is good to be humble. How does a humble attitude help us in our distresses?
6. The chapter closes with Job's expressions of despair, once again longing for death. Still, the *hope of the grave* did not sit well with Job. What question did he ask in the beginning of verse 15?
- a. Job was having trouble in this chapter seeing his hope, but you should not! Where do you find your *hope* when you are hurting?
 - b. Record the words of David in Psalm 62:5.
 - c. *Expectation* is another word for hope. How does *hoping in God* change your perspective?

Read Job 18.

1. Chapter 18 records Bildad's second retort. He began by rebuking Job for his low opinion of his friends. From verses 2-3 we can see that Bildad is just trading insults with Job. What relationship do you see between these two who were called friends?
2. In the rest of the chapter, Bildad describes the afflictions, the life and the destiny of the wicked. What true statement do you see about the wicked in Job 18:6-10?
3. The problem with Bildad and the other friends is that they assume that all of the terrible things described in verses 6-21 happen to the wicked on this earth, and nothing good. We know they will be judged and will experience many of these things, but they do see some success on this earth. What do the following scriptures say about the assumption Job's friends are making?
 - a. Psalm 73:1-17
 - b. Psalm 92:7

4. Just as we cannot know who is wicked simply by the circumstances or difficulties in their life, we also cannot identify the righteous by their circumstances or prosperity. This is the problem with the philosophy of Job's friends. What does Matthew 5:45 say about this?

5. What do you see in Job 18:21 that shows us that the description Bildad gives of what happens to the wicked does not apply to Job?

Consider the following thoughts on this chapter from Oswald Chambers:

"Bildad describes the worst man he can think of, and Job says, 'All this has happened to me, and you say therefore I must be a bad man, but I say I am not. You have the logic of your creed, while I have the reality of my experience... The God who will explain my experience I have not yet found, but I am confident there is such a God and meantime I refuse to accept your counterfeit of Him.'" (Chambers, Oswald "Baffled to Fight Better: Job and the Problem of Suffering" (London: Marshall Morgan & Scott, 1955)

In closing...

In these four chapters we saw several perspectives, or points of view, and how they effected the words and attitudes of a person. Job went in and out of hope and hopelessness, and his friends were no help to him. They were so sure they were right that they couldn't hear the truth in Job's words.

1. What are the dangers of thinking you are always right?

2. What dangers do you see in the view of Job's friends toward the righteous and the wicked?

3. How does Luke 6:42 address this problem?

Memory Verse

*"... for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good,
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