

## **Job #24 (Job 29 and 30)**

These chapters need to be looked at together – Life then and now

### **I. First We Must Realize the Simple Truth that Things Change**

- A. From chapter 29 – chapter 30 there had been great change for Job
  - 1. See this in 30:1- “But now” – only God doesn’t change (Mal. 3:6)
- B. Job’s condition change has caused other people’s opinions to change
  - 1. Job 29:8-10, 21-23 compared with Job 30:1, 9, 10
- C. We see this changing opinion with other people in the Bible
  - 1. David loved & cheered (1 Samuel 18:7) then cursed (2 Sam. 16:5-13)
  - 2. Paul had this change from criminal to a god twice in his ministry
    - a. Acts 14:11, 2 with 14:9; Acts 28:3, 4 with 28:5, 6
  - 3. Of course our Lord Himself went through this with people
    - a. Cheered (Matthew 21:9) to asking for His death (Mark 15:13)
      - 1. Finally received scorn and mockery (Matthew 27:42)
- D. Job is seeing public opinion change from all ages and groups
  - 1. 30:1 – Low people – and young people who should have respect
    - a. Youth should keep 5<sup>th</sup> commandment-Prov 16:31; 2 Kgs 2:23, 24
- E. Learn from this not to value people’s opinions too much- 2 Cor. 4:3, 4
  - 1. People speaking evil of us can be a good thing- Matthew 5:11, 12
- F. Another thing that has changed is people’s desire to be with Job
  - 1. Job 30:10; Prodigal Son found this out – Luke 15:12-16
- G. This leads to fact that people don’t want to hear us – Job 29:21 – 23
- H. We need to learn truth that everything is changeable- Prov. 23:5

### **II. Second We Must Be Careful of the Danger of Looking Back**

- A. In chapter 29 Job spends most of time looking back at his earlier life
- B. Looking back in scripture almost always associated with sorrow
  - 1. Luke 16:23 – 25- Rich man in Hades looks back
  - 2. Numbers 11:4-6 – Children of Israel look back at life in Egypt
  - 3. Luke 17:32 – Lot’s wife (Genesis 19:26) – Compare Luke 9:61, 62
- C. Paul determined that he would look ahead not back (Phil. 3:12-15)
- D. Looking back can lead to discontent with our present condition
  - 1. Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11-13; Habakkuk 3:17, 18
- E. But it is OK to desire a better condition- especially spiritually
  - 1. Psalm 42:4; Psalm 63:1, 2; Psalm 118:25; Psalm 144:12- 15

### **III. Third, Whatever our Condition- Realize that God is With Us**

- A. Job seems to miss this (29:5; 30:19-23)
  - 1. Only way Job could persevere in this trial is because God is with him
- B. Two special times we doubt God’s presence
  - 1. In time of outward afflictions like Job experiences
  - 2. In times when we sense the inward desertion of God (Ps. 22:1; 43:3)
- C. Need to be careful of thought when bad things happen God isn’t there
  - 1. John 11:21, 32; Judges 6:13
- D. Remember to rejoice in the good times – to be thankful
  - 1. Deut. 28:45 – 48- some times we don’t see it till they are gone
- E. Whatever is happening in our lives – God is in it – He watches over us
  - 1. Isaiah 42:16; Isaiah 43:2; Ps. 127:1, 91:1, 2; Luke 22:31, 32