

Studies in Job – Part 11:
“God Sends His Preacher to Job ”
Job 32:1-5; 34:1-9

Exposition: *Job is graciously prepared to hear God.*

1. Elihu’s Place

- (1) Previously, no reference to him at all.
Figuratively speaking, he “appears out of nowhere”
- (2) His name means: “He is my God”
- (3) Being younger than the three friends, he has kept silent to this point. (32:4)
- (4) Finally, he could hold his peace no longer – he is angry (32:2,3)
 - 1- With Job, because “he was righteous in his own eyes”
 - 2- With the friends, because they had not answered Job
- (5) Elihu’s speeches (Chpts. 32-37) serve as a kind of transition to the appearance of God.
 - there is no response of Job to Elihu
 - God speaks immediately after Elihu (38)

2. Elihu’s Rebuke – a Summary

- (1) “Job Makes Himself to Appear More Righteous than God”

“he justified himself rather than God” 32:2

“Job has said, ‘I am righteous, but God has taken away my justice.’ ” 34:5
(i.e., “He is not treating me justly!”)

“Do you say, ‘My righteousness is more than God’s?’ ” 35:2

 - Job defends his own righteousness at many points, and amidst this, calls into question God’s righteousness.

 - He comes off as much more occupied and concerned with defending his own righteousness, rather than God’s.

 - He has argued that God dealt too harshly with him.
(He was righteous, but God was to be questioned!)
- (2) “Job Has Made it Appear that there is No Advantage in Serving God.”

“He has said, ‘It profits a man nothing that he should delight in God.’ ” 34:9

*“For you say, ‘What advantage will it be to You
What profit shall I have more than if I had sinned?’ ” 35:3*

- not said explicitly, but Job has certainly implied it.
- Job seems to say:

*“If I am to suffer this way, having done no wrong,
God is not dealing with me righteously!”*

“I might as well have sinned, as He provides no advantage to living godly.”

Elihu’s answers:

1. God will never do wickedness. 34:10ff
2. He is not obliged at any point to justify His actions to us. 33:12-13
He is the righteous one; we are the sinners.
How dare we set ourselves up to examine the righteousness of His ways!

Some further Application:

1. God condescends to speak through men to appeal to us.

Through Elihu, Job is thus graciously prepared to hear what God would say.
2. When God tests and tries us, He certainly has His reasons – and they are always holy and righteous reasons!
3. We find it rather easy to confess that God never does wrong (34:10)
– until severe trial comes into our lives.
Our “questioning” typically takes the form of grumbling over the situation.