

Job

How Do We Know What We Think We Know?

Sunday School Lesson #12

I. ELIHU ASSERTS IT IS POSSIBLE TO KNOW THE RIGHTNESS OF GOD (JOB CHAPTER 34)

A. Job's words

1. I am in the right (רַיָּצִי) [morally right because of all his sacrifices] and God has taken away my right (הִטִּף־צִדְקָתִי) [declared Job guilty of sin] (Job 27:2-4)
2. In spite of Job declaring himself right (הִטִּף־צִדְקָתִי) [declared himself sinless] God has declared me [Job] a *liar* (Job 9:21)
3. Literally translated Job says, "I am terribly weakened by my wounds [from God's spears and arrows] though I am not in rebellion [against God]"

B. Elihu's Response — Job is a wicked sinner who is in rebellion against God based on his own words (Job 9:22-24)

1. Job is really mocking God using sarcastic, bitter humor to declare himself innocent and God guilty
2. From this premise the only conclusion one can reach is that it really does not matter if one follows God since it does not avert calamity
 - a) This is a work-based viewpoint of God
 - 1) If I...the God...
 - 2) If God...then I...
 - b) There is no relationship between Job and God and certainly no understanding of eternity future

C. Elihu's response is quite simple: God is NEVER wrong, ever!

1. Who made God, God?
 - a) God chose to create heavens, earth and man and when He chooses He will unmake this creation
 - b) God does not hate justice or He would NOT govern
 - 1) Man sees only one or two or maybe even three threads in determining what God should or should not do
 - 2) God sees multiple threads that affect not only the present but also the future both immediate and long-term that lies outside the comprehension of man
 - (a) Man usually only sees and responds to what has or is happening

- (b) God responds in ways that what has NOT occurred is often more important than what has occurred
- 2. Affliction does NOT change one's worldview, turn one to salvation in and of itself
 - a) No one has ever stops sinning because of being punished (this destroyed the argument for capital punishment based on its being a deterrent)
 - b) No one seeks to learn what one does not understand, or have knowledge of, in order to change one's worldview
 - c) Instead, man often *rejects* the instruction of God and demands that God follow man's plan governing the inhabitants of earth
- 3. Conclusion: Job speaks without knowledge of God
 - a) Job has no insight into the truth of God
 - b) God would be just in trying Job to the end because of Job's revealed sinfulness based on his open rebellion against God as evidenced by his own words

II. DOES OUR SIN REALLY AFFECT GOD? (JOB CHAPTER 35)

- A. Elihu asks Job if his words are judicially correct (אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה) when Job says that he is morally clean (קָדוֹשׁ) before God, by quoting Job who asked the following questions:
 - 1. Has it benefited me to believe in God?
 - 2. Would I have been worse off if I had lived a life of sin?
- B. Do our actions really affect God?
 - 1. Do our sins affect God?
 - 2. Do our "righteous" actions give God anything?
 - 3. The truth of the matter
 - a) Our sins only affect ourselves and others
 - b) Our "righteous" actions only affect our posterity
- C. The truth of Scripture unchanged: People do NOT seek after God in spite of the troubles that come to them (Romans 3:10-18; Revelation 16:8-11, 21)
 - 1. People cry out but not to God
 - 2. Since they do not seek Him, He does not answer them (Hebrews 3:7-11; 11:6 [Notice that Job is NOT in the believer's Hall of Fame])
- D. Job has misinterpreted God's silence
 - 1. God did not immediately punish Job for either
 - a) His sin or

- b) His sins
- 2. Job misinterpreted it as God approval of his life and actions actions
- 3. This misunderstanding of God's silence toward the lost (Romans 1:18-32) lead Job to
 - a) Assert his empty wisdom of God when he had no knowledge or love for God
 - b) When rebuked by others he only entrenched himself in his self-righteousness which revealed his unrepentant and sinful heart for everyone to see BUT himself
- E. The experience of the Hagiazio Process alone
 - 1. Does not drive a person to
 - a) Salvation or
 - b) To a closer, more intimate relationship with Christ
 - 2. The direct intervention of the parakletoi (advocates) (Christ and the Holy Spirit) are required (Romans 8:5-9; 1 Corinthians 2:11-14)
 - a) The spirit of man will never repent of its own volition
 - b) The Spirit of God illuminates God's righteousness leading one to repentance and true spiritual change
- F. How do you respond to adversity and what does it reveal about your relationship with God?