

WHO'S IN CONTROL? / Sunday, October 26, 2014

Unifying Topic: HOPE SATISFIES

Lesson Text

I. **Job Confesses To The Lord** (Job 42:1-6)

II. **God Forgives Job And His Friends** (Job 42:7-10)

Lesson Text: I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. (Job 42:2, KJV).

Unifying Principle: People often wonder who or what controls the final outcomes in life's many challenges. Where can people find answers to life's ultimate questions? Job declares that God can do all things and will ultimately prevail over all obstacles, restoring the fortunes of those who are faithful, and the psalmist illustrates how God's people can pray that God will be gracious to them and preserve their lives.

Lesson Aim: To demonstrate God's sovereignty, justice, and ability to restore.

Life Aim: To serve as a reminder that God is sovereign and that we often don't know or realize all that God is doing.

42:1 Then Job answered the Lord, and said,

42:2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.

42:3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

42:4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

42:6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

42:7 And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.

42:8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.

42:9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the Lord commanded them: the Lord also accepted Job.

42:10 And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

HISTORY: We have jumped from Job 24 to Job 42.

Chapter 38-39 THE LORD'S RESPONSE: God humbles job by asking him a series of questions. The first series of questions deals with God's power and wisdom in bringing the universe into being—the Creation: [*the earth, ocean, light, snow and rain, the stars*]. God continues with the second series of questions concerning God's creatures: [*lions, ravens, mountain goats, wild donkeys, the wild ox, the horse, the hawk*].

Chapter 40-41 JOB'S REACTION: Job is humbled regarding his wisdom. The Lord confronts Job and asks him for his answers to all these questions. Job confesses: "*I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers? I will put my hand over my mouth in silence.*" Job is humbled again regarding his power. God confronts Job by asking if he is able to capture two fearful and magnificent creatures: (1) the behemoth—It is difficult to be certain what this creature was. Some believed a dinosaur; others believed a hippopotamus. (2) the leviathan—Some believed to be a crocodile, whale or monster.

LESSON:

Job 42:1-6 Job Confesses To The Lord

42:1 Then Job answered the Lord, and said,— Job had responded the first time (40:1-5) with silence and his hand over his mouth. Now he humbly responds to the Lord's reproof. He is allowed to give an answer to God.

42:2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Job acknowledges the power of God. He really knows that God is in control and can do all things and that no purpose of God can be restrained or held back. Job definitely could not withhold anything from God. Everything Job did was knowledgeable to God. But, it is in God's control to hold back or give forth anything He so desires. And Job had to recognize that!

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42:3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Job quotes the very words from Job 38:2 when God interrogated and questioned him. Those words were so powerful, for it reminded and convicted Job of the hidden counsel of God. Many things we don't know will make us say things out of term. Many things are too wonderful to comprehend about God. So therefore, Job had to acknowledge that he thoughtlessly spoke without intelligence and understanding.

42:4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. Again Job quotes God's Words from Job 38:3 when God told Job to prepare himself like a man and He (God) will question him and he (Job) will answer. It's like saying, "*I'm The Only One to question and you will answer!*" All job had to do was listen with a clear ear and mind; all God does is (1) will speak (inform); He wills (2) demands; and He will (3) declare things. Job here, is just repeating God's Words.

42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Yes, Job has heard God's Words from Job 38:2-3, that's why he was quoting them back to God. Job says, yes Lord, I heard of You with mine ear when You spoke these word before me. We can quote God's Words back to Him without really knowing Him. We can know of Him. All the questions that Job hath put forth don't mean anything. But the questions and statements from God mean everything! And to add to that, now God's presence is before him and his eyes have gazed upon God and it's more than he can take. That's when we truly know God. He becomes real in our lives when our eyes truly see Him. He becomes more real in the suffering or trials we go through and we relinquish all to Him.

42:6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. Job was reduced to such utter humility, crushed beneath the weight of God's greatness and presence, that all he could do was repent for his insolence. Without answers to all of his questions, Job quietly bowed in humble submission before his Creator in dust and ashes and admitted that God is sovereign. "*How Great Is Our God!*" Job had never grasped the greatness, majesty, sovereignty, and independence of God as he did at that very moment. He had seen God with eyes of faith. The dust and ashes Job sat in had not changed but the heart of God's suffering servant had. Job did not have to repent of some sins which Satan or his accusers had raised, but Job had exercised presumption and allegation of unfairness against his Lord and hated himself for this in a way that called for brokenness and contrition.

Job 42:7-10 God Forgives Job And His Friends

42:7 And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. "...after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job" had to refer back to Job 38. Now the Lord gets to Job's three friends. He speaks to Eliphaz and lets him know that His wrath (anger) burns; is ignited against him and the other two friends (Bildad and Zophar). Why, you ask? They had not spoken what was right about God's servant Job, as Job had spoken. This means that God had out-rightly vindicated Job by saying he had done right and even called him His servant. Job's words expressed deep anguish and frustration, but he was right in rejecting the error of his friends. Job's words never lost its earnest desire to appear before God. Job's friends had made the error of assuming that Job's suffering was caused by some great sin. They were judging Job without knowing what God was doing. God never told them what He was doing, they assumed. We have to be careful in making judgments about a person because God may be working in ways we know nothing about. He's still in control!

42:8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job. God now begins to speak to Job's three friends who were there around Job. He tells them what they are to do. This is how God humbles the very men who thought they were defending and glorifying God. They had not gotten away with all their irrational and their prideful speeches. No, God's presence evokes judgment. Job had already told his three friends to be afraid of the "*sword for judgment*", for it belongs to God, not to them. In Job 19:29, Job had turned to them, warning them of their persistent persecution of presuming he was guilty, and that it will bring the sword of judgment down upon their own heads. Well, after they had talked about him; low-rated, belittled him; and turned him inside out. God tells them to take seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to Job, offer up for themselves a burnt offering, and God's servant Job will pray for them. This had to have been an humbling experience for Job's three

friends. **Now seven bullocks and seven rams** was the number of sacrifices specified in Num.23:1 by Balaam the prophet, so perhaps it was a traditional kind of burnt offering for sin. We know that seven means "*completion*." God had been gracious to Job, so He was also to Job's three friends, by means of sacrifice and prayer. He did not deal with their foolishness as He should have. He accepted Job's plea for their sake, thereby not wreaking destruction; nor destroying them as He should have because of their failure to speak rightly of God concerning God's servant Job.

42:9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the Lord commanded them: the Lord also accepted Job. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar complied with the Lord's command. And Job, even after receiving much criticism from his three friends was able to pray for them. It is difficult to forgive someone who has accused you of wrongdoing, but Job did because he too had to humble himself. It's not possible on your own, but with God's help it's possible. And we see that the Lord accepted Job's prayer upon their behalf.

42:10 And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then when Job prayed for his three friends, it is only at this point that restoration came for Job; God turned the captivity of Job—restored to him his former blessings. When Job prayed he was also released and reconciled back with his three friends. God made up to Job for all his losses. He gave Job twice as much as he had before. Hope was satisfied in Job, to keep believing the One who's in control.

SUMMARY:

¹Job's final response is to humbly acknowledge God's ability to do everything, and that no purpose of His can be withheld from Him. He also confesses that he has spoken of things he did not understand, and beyond his ability to comprehend. Having now heard and seen God, Job abhors himself and repents (**42:1-6**).

²With Job admitting he had spoken of things he did not understand and having repented, the Lord now addresses Eliphaz as the representative of Job's three friends. They angered the Lord by saying things that were not right about God. They are therefore instructed to offer seven bulls and seven rams, with Job praying in their behalf. When Job has prayed for his friends, the Lord begins to restore his losses. (**42:7-10**).

APPLICATION:

Who's in control of your life? Can we apply what we learn from Job? Job had hope because He knew of and heard God with his ear, but through affliction and God's presence, lets him know he can see God as He really is—the One in control!!! He's the One who can reverse suffering!!! Can we say we really know God? We can when we know and believe He satisfies all our needs.

¹ http://executableoutlines.com/job/job_08.htm

² http://executableoutlines.com/job/job_09.htm

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>