

....Doth Not He See My Ways ~

Job 31:1 – 32:3

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~ Our Spiritual Safari Great Physician – Jehovah Rapha – diagnosed Job’s condition succinctly in our last report. If you have not read our previous report from Job, I suggest you go back and do so now. Job has terminal “*Perpendicular latus*,” and the symptoms – which are “*I*” trouble and open sore boils that Job is scraping with a piece of broken pottery in a garbage dump landfill in Uz – are turning dangerously problematic now. The Lord diagnosed Job’s disease correctly in chapters one and two; when it first appeared. And then along came Bildad, Eliphaz and Zophar, who each misdiagnosed Job as a hypocrite with hidden sin – turning in a three to one report against God and against Job, and rendering chaos. Of course, Job was wrong in his responses, too; everyone so far in the group – all of them, completely wrong. Imagine that?

After seventeen preliminary reports, we come to the most important section in the Book of Job. If you enjoy reading these safari reports, please pray that I will be able to fully convey to you what is on my heart. We’re going to look at truths so difficult to articulate and so brutally honest that most of us cannot come to terms with tenets found in this section of Scripture. The popular religious writer today does not cover this portion of Job, my friend – not correctly. Well, these are remedial truths which are so desperately needed by a sick, lost and dying world today.

The three friends erroneously believe the only possible reason God would allow suffering like Job was experiencing would be to punish sin. According to them, it simply could not be otherwise. They want it to be as simple as that, but it’s not — it’s complex; and they’re demanding a false confession from Job so they can stone him to death. Well, thank God they’re done talking; but, unfortunately, Job isn’t. He should have allowed his silence to be his wisdom at this point — but his friends have seriously provoked him.

In chapter twenty-nine we saw Job use the personal pronoun “*I*” fifty-three times; in chapter thirty-one, Job will use “*I*” over *ONE HUNDRED* times. So,

Job 31:1 – 32:3

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we know the Lord's diagnosis of Job – lack of meekness, humility and humbleness – is exactly correct. Even after all Job has been through, there is still no brokenness of spirit before God, no contriteness of heart, no awareness of shortcomings — and no repentance. Job's three friends have utterly failed him. Job has utterly failed the Lord. Job's life is a disaster. His friends want to stone him. That's where the account of Job truly begins.

Humility is certainly something to be admired in others. Even the man of the world looks favorably upon humility in others. Man's most dangerous weakness is an inability to assume a humble mannerism. Most celebrities are narcissistic to the nth degree; and society, of course '*celebrates*' those people and their troubling behavior. The ability to display the honor of humility is a political art form long lost today; but to scorn invites the vengeance of an outraged public – even as public discourse becomes more and more volatile! That's raw and true human nature: *PRIDE*. Job's three friends aren't the only ones guilty of it, either.

Actually, Job is extremely angry now, too; and he came out of his corner swinging hard, as we saw in previous reports. Unfortunately, Job is blaming God by asserting it is wrong for all of the problems in his life to be permitted. Job is also what we would call: misguided. It is another horrendous secondary symptom of Perpendicular *latus* — along with: spiritual pride. Our last report saw Job's embarrassingly pathetic attempt to justify himself and, friends, the most foolish thing any man can do is attempt to justify himself; inasmuch as God *MUST* impute sin!

All we can do as subjects of the True and Living God is fall upon His mercy! That's when Christ becomes our justification. The moment we make a proclamation of self-justification, God will point His finger and – God help us; there is nothing but wrath for the self-righteous. Real wisdom is self-judgment and self-condemnation; because *THAT* is when the Great Physician can heal us of our sins. Thank God there is nothing but grace for the self-judged.

Alright, when we come before the Lord in the Word of God, He wants us to be real, normal and natural. Any defense we make for ourselves will result in disaster. If you think you are some great person, or that you have done

some great thing, I have some bad news for you: God says everything of that kind is wood, hay and stubble — and it's going into the fire. Think about what God is saying in this section of Scripture, friends. The Day of the Lord will be against everything high and lifted up. I don't care how many decades you have been saved. Don't care for that theology? — God calls you a fool — and you definitely don't want to read any more of this report.

True wisdom will have to take the broken and low place, or you will join a sea of chatter that makes absolutely no sense. We get our best view of God and of His salvation from the low place, too. Now, there is a huge spiritual movement today in which there is no genuine salvation. The reason is: *PRIDE*. Pride is, by far, the greatest sin in the present hour. God hates it — you may be absolutely sure. It is certainly Job's problem at the time in which we are studying.

You and I cannot improve ourselves by attempting to lower the Lord's standard by professing God is satisfied with us. You can forget that nonsense, friends. Only when we recognize our failures and defeats can we truly humble ourselves before the Lord God Almighty Who fights for us! Through all of that, the Lord Jesus Christ commands us to hold onto all of His great truths. Only a truly broken and contrite spirit is accepted by God. Unfortunately, Job justified himself instead of justifying God, so his heart was not broken and contrite. That's something else the friends condemned Job for; but they could not lead Job to condemn himself. Friends, we must — *MUST* justify God. There is *NO* unrighteousness with God.

Psalm 34:¹⁸*the LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.* ¹⁹ *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.* ²⁰ *He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken ~*

Psalm 51:¹⁷*the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise ~*

Isaiah 57:¹⁵*for thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is*

of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones ~

That is real repentance, friends. See, we don't go to God to trade on equal terms. We don't attempt to do business with Him by turning in a self-prepared goodness report. Attrition is the theme all the way through the Bible; John said, "...I must decrease so that Christ might increase." Well, that's a real problem for the politician and the celebrity today; and it makes it very difficult for anyone to genuinely come to Christ. Frighteningly, it's applicable to many of those in the service of the Lord. Egotism and self-conceit are a thousand times more detestable when they appear in the service of the Lord.

Jesus made Himself of no reputation on this earth – in a word: humble. God is not going to recognize our pride. It is wood, hay and stubble to be tried by fire. We have hateful, unsubdued, self-displayed Christian profession and Christian service today – and it's all going to be burnt up. You can just write that down. Well, that is the problem afflicting Job; and he is still suffering "I" trouble but, thankfully, before it's all over, he is going to completely change his tune....

XXXI

~ Labouringly, Job is fortunate he didn't break his arm patting himself on the back in chapter thirty-one for being such a wonderful man with so much integrity. Job still wants to state his case before God as Judge instead of pleading guilty and throwing himself on the mercy of the court. Job pleads *not guilty* to a whole bunch of things in this chapter; and he still can't understand why this calamity has happened to him. After all, Job looked around and saw people living in the sins Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar were falsely accusing him of committing. Even so, we still see Job acting as proud as he possibly could. Well, Job is no liar, friends. All of the things he is saying about himself are accurate. He had been very considerate and kind to others. He just can't see the deadly blind spot with his "I" trouble — and he cannot cease speaking of himself. That's a problem.

There are many Christians who live in this state today; their lives are mired in pride before others. Read this very carefully: pride is as bad as if you had gone out with a gun and murdered someone. Actually, it's worse — because you're killing them spiritually. It can happen just as quickly, too. Bang. One word; not a word. Pride makes a church ice cold; and they always think they're just right. Now, if we are in Christ, we're saved, yes; but, and I don't care who you are — your life is not measuring up to God's standard at all. God is trying to communicate that to many people — but they refuse to study the Bible. And they continue to boast to Him of their own works. Well, again, Job was no liar — he did all these things that he said he had done. Even so, Job is still lifted up with: *Pride*. It is nearly impossible to move beyond our problem of pride as people. Ultimately, Job says God was wrong for treating him so badly for no reason; and there are a whole bunch of Christians saying that today, too. They're wrong. Totally blind. Total and complete fools. We need to see our rightful place down in the dust and take our proper place before God, my beloved....

¹ I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

² For what portion of God is there from above? and what inheritance of the Almighty from on high?

³ Is not destruction to the wicked? and a strange punishment to the workers of iniquity?

⁴ Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?

⁵ If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit;

⁶ Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.

⁷ If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to mine hands;

⁸ Then let me sow, and let another eat; yea, let my offspring be rooted out.

9 If mine heart have been deceived by a woman, or if I have laid wait at my neighbour's door;

10 Then let my wife grind unto another, and let others bow down upon her.

11 For this is an heinous crime; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.

12 For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction, and would root out all mine increase.

13 If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me;

14 What then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him?

15 Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?

16 If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail;

17 Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof;

18 (For from my youth he was brought up with me, as with a father, and I have guided her from my mother's womb;)

19 If I have seen any perish for want of clothing, or any poor without covering;

20 If his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep;

21 If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate:

22 Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone.

23 For destruction from God was a terror to me, and by reason of his highness I could not endure.

24 If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;

25 If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;

26 If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness;

27 And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:

28 This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.

29 If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him:

30 Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse to his soul.

31 If the men of my tabernacle said not, Oh that we had of his flesh! we cannot be satisfied.

32 The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller.

33 If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom:

34 Did I fear a great multitude, or did the contempt of families terrify me, that I kept silence, and went not out of the door?

35 Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book.

36 Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, and bind it as a crown to me.

37 I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him.

38 If my land cry against me, or that the furrows likewise thereof complain;

39 If I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, or have caused the owners thereof to lose their life:

40 Let thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley. The words of Job are ended.

~ So, our safari ends this leg of the expedition with Job having confessed everything that could possibly be wrong with him in his life – except: pride. Job was willing to allow his enemy to write whatever he wanted to conclude about Job; and they would let that be the official record — and Job is tragically proud of his record. His case of “*Perpendicular latus*” is serious. Thank God, there is a man who stood there in the crowd, Elihu; his name means “*God Himself*” — and he’s a young man. He hasn’t said a word yet, but he is going to speak out now....

XXXII

1 So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

2 Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God.

³ Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.

~ Elihu was a member of an Arab tribe. The crowd in the garbage dump has condemned Job — and they desperately desire to stone him; but they haven't quite put their finger on his sin — so, they can't. This must have been deeply disappointing to a mob that had hung around so long in a thunderstorm. Well, Elihu the Arab is going to speak. He doesn't have the answer, either; but Elihu will be much closer to the truth than the others were. This demonstrates how awfully and unpredictably our life circumstances can unfold. Well, God can and will still work in this type of situation through His people; and Elihu will open the way for God to speak to Job. You might want to make some prophetic mental notes to yourself as we move along in our next few reports. We're going to get some information straight from headquarters in Heaven that we all so vitally need ~

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