

Serving a Just God
Bible Background: Job 42
Devotional Reading: Job 37:14-24

Aim for Change (Page 283):

1. **UNDERSTAND** the necessity of being humble before God
 2. **APPRECIATE** how God listens to our thoughts and responds with justice
 3. **HELP** others see the justice of God in difficult situations
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Background (Page 286):

- Job is the first poetic book of the OT as well as a book of wisdom as it answers soul-aching questions of godly sufferers
 - Job exposes three distinct scriptural truths:
 - God allowed Job to be tested as he was perfect and upright, feared God and shunned evil; Satan was granted permission to test him; God's omniscience is evident (Job 1:6-22, 2:3-10)
 - Human frailty and limited thinking hinder our ability to understand God's counsel; God's awesomeness is too vast for us to grasp for our human understanding; so, it distracts us from His grace
 - The reality of faith is not in blessing, favor, humanistic understanding, and answers, but in the revelation of God Himself (Job 38)
 - Tests purifies character and integrity if in right relationship with God as He never initiates pain and suffering without benevolence and grace
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Where do you find hope, and how do you share it when you have it? (In Focus Question – Page 283)

The People, Places, and Times (Page 286):

- The book of Job is organized into cycles, with a narrative (spoken or written account of connected events/story), prologue (separate introductory section), epilogue (a conclusion of what happened)
 - Job goes back and forth with his friends Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar (Job 4-31)
 - God answers them because He's had it (Job 38-41)
 - Job is humbled again, and God restores him (Job 42)
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In Depth (Page 286-287):

1. God's Wisdom and Counsel (Job 42:1-3)

- a. (v. 2) Job acknowledges God's omnipotence, which he knew all along, now realizes he's a mere mortal who isn't supposed to understand all that God does (**Psalm 147:5; Matthew 19:26**)
 - b. (v.3) Job admits his guilt of speaking about things he knew nothing about (**Psalm 139:6**)
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How does interpreting God's wisdom and counsel impact how we see His wisdom and counsel at work in the adversity of our own life?

2. Job's Humanity (Job 42:4-6)

- a. Job had a basic understanding of how God operates with limited understanding regarding involvement in suffering and adversity
 - b. (v. 5) Through his trials (personal revelation), Job had to come in some way face-to-face with God (**Romans 8:5; Galatians 5:17**)
 - i. When we are absent from the presence and reality of God, pride grows, which hinders our sight from seeing His justice and faithfulness during our suffering
 - c. (v. 6) Shows humility of where we came from (**Genesis 2:7, 18:27**)
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What hinders us so that we do not see the reality of God in our deepest pain and misfortunes?

Sunday, 02-27-2022

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3. God's Justice (Job 42:10-11)

- a. Job vindicated his friends by being obedient to God and praying for them and God vindicated Job (**Sunday – Job 42:1-11**)
 - i. (v. 7-9) God was concerned only with the false things Job's friends said about Him
 - ii. (v. 10) when he prayed for his friends Job was restored

How might restoration of personal suffering and adversity reside within your power? How can you reconcile in your mind that God's justice might be dependent on us?

4. God's Faithfulness in Adversity (Job 42:12-17)

- a. God doesn't give us anything more than what we can handle or bear (**1 Corinthians 10:13**)
- b. Adversity tests our faith and commitment to God
 - i. Faith is fortified
 - ii. Commitment solidified
 - iii. Blessings verified
- c. Surviving adversity is indication that God's faithfulness is operating in your life
- d. (v. 10-12) Job received double of what he had before with the exception of his children (Job 8:7; **Isaiah 61:7**; James 5:11)
- e. (v.13) he was given back seven sons and three daughters (represent a symbol of beauty and love)
 - i. Jemimah – turtle dove; beauty and love
 - ii. Keziah – cassia; aromatic spice from the cassia tree; perfume scenting the clothes of the queen (Psalm 45:8)
 - iii. Keren-happuch – horn of antimony (black powder used for eye cosmetic); anointing oil (1 Samuel 16:1, 13; 1 Kings 1:39)
- f. (v. 15) Daughters weren't given an inheritance unless there were no male heirs (brothers) (Numbers 27:7-8), but Job counted this as a special blessing, which demonstrates justice and equity in his life

During adverse circumstances of your life, how did you show your faithfulness to God? Where has He demonstrated faithfulness toward you?

Discuss the Meaning (Page 288):

What are the attributes of Gd that can be seen in Job? What character traits does Job possess? Are there any adjustments to make to your character?

Is there a place you have discounted the wisdom and counsel of God? Why? How can we ensure that we always embrace the counsel and wisdom of God especially in adversity?