

Part 6: Discovering a Smaller God

Book reading:

Chapters 9-10

Daily Journaling:

Job 31-36



Message verses:

Job 38:1-4

Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm. He said: 2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

Job 42:1-6

Then Job replied to the Lord : 2 "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. 3 You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 4 You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' 5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

Part Six

Discussion Questions:

Why is it dangerous to build your faith on what other people say about God (instead of your own personal experiences with Him)?

What redemptive things has God brought out of the storms from your past?

Do you realize that God wants to have an intimate relationship with you? How does viewing God in this “smaller” way help you to grow in this intimacy?

What can make it difficult for you to connect with God during hard times?

How does knowing that God has an end in view for your pain—a purpose for you to live out—affect the way that you go through hard times?

Ministry Time:

Pray for those who need God to send a storm of mercy to them to blow the dust away from the Dunghill where they have been living. Let the Father wrap His arms around you in the middle of your pain.

Pray for those who feel paralyzed by questions of faith that keep them from intimacy with the Father. Choose to release your need to have all of the answers and hear God say to you “none of the things that you are battling are more powerful than Me.”

“Dunghill is the last place on Earth you would expect the Creator of the Universe to place His holy feet. This is a garbage dump of filth and worthless, discarded things—literally of dung. When Christ came to Earth in His incarnation to make God ‘smaller,’ He also entered the world in a lowly stable with animal dung. Remember, He’s the God who ‘raiseth up the poor out of the dust, And lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill’ (1 Samuel 2:8, KJV). God finds His best pearls hidden in the ashes of Dunghill. The Lord doesn’t come down with a club to punish Job, but with a hug to heal Him.”

JOB: My Ugly Priest, Chapter Nine