

Job 26

Truth

I. Job Discourse Begins [To ch.31]

Truth

Job 25:4 [Bilad] How then can man be righteous before God? ...**6** How much less man, who is a maggot, And a **son of man, who is a worm?**"

Man cannot be righteous in himself before God so...
God became a man who became a servant who became a worm who died for our sins, **so...**

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but **made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Psalms 22:1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? **6 ...But I am a worm**, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. 7 All those who see Me ridicule Me ... **30** A posterity [heirs] shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, 31 They will come and **declare His righteousness** to a people who will be born, **That He has done this.**

He has made us Righteous by His Righteousness
For the Joy set Before Him He Endured the Cross...

Philippians 2:9 **Therefore** God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father

- **Accusation:** You are not righteous Job

1 But Job answered and said: 2 "**How have you helped** him who is without power? **How have you** saved the arm that has no strength? 3 **How have you** counseled one who has no wisdom? And **how have you declared** sound advice to many? 4 **To whom have you** uttered words? And whose spirit came from you?

Who made you counselors? Who else have you *helped*

Romans 2:19 [Jesus to self-righteous] ...and are confident that you yourself are a **guide** to the blind, **a light** to those who are in darkness, 20 **an instructor** of the foolish, a **teacher** of babes ...**21** You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?

5 "The dead tremble, Those under the waters and those inhabiting them. 6 Sheol is **naked before Him**, And Destruction has **no covering**.

The Dead Tremble. Why?
All motives will be revealed

Hebrews 4:13 ...there is no creature hidden from His sight, but **all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him** to whom we must give account.

- **Ludacris:** Amusing or laughable through obvious absurdity, incongruity, or exaggeration. Meriting derisive laughter or scorn as absurdly inept, false, or foolish.

It is ludacris to argue over who is more righteous...Who is greatest
Only God is Righteous. Only God is Sovereign. Job goes Vertical...

7 [God] stretches out the north over empty space; He **hangs the earth on nothing**. 8 He **binds up the water in His thick clouds**, Yet the clouds are not broken under it. 9 He covers the face of His throne, And spreads His cloud over it. 10 He drew a **circular horizon** on the face of the waters, At the boundary of light and darkness. 11 The pillars of heaven tremble, And are astonished at His rebuke.

Psalms 33:6 By the **word of the Lord the heavens were made**, And all the host of them **by the breath of His mouth**.

- Word of God is far ahead of science...
 1. **Earth** hangs on nothing: Spinning in space
 2. **Clouds** Hold Water: Climate Cycle
 3. **Circular Horizon:** Earth is Sphere
 4. **Universe** is expanding like a scroll

Job 9:8 He alone **spreads out the heavens**, And treads on the waves of the sea...

Psalms 104:2 [God] Who **stretch out the heavens like a curtain**.

Proverbs 30:4b ...Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is **His Son's name**, If you know?

His Son's Name is Jesus and...

Colossians 1:16 ...**by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.

Jesus is Sovereign over All Creation
All Principalities and Powers Good and Evil...Seen and Unseen

12 [The Lord] stirs up the sea with **His power**, And by His understanding **He breaks up the storm** [Rahab]. 13 By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; **His hand pierced the fleeing serpent**.

Job 26:12 [KJV] ...by his understanding he smiteth through **the proud**.

Job 26:12 ...By His understanding He shattered **Rahab**.

Psalms 89:9 You [Lord] rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them. 10 You have broken **Rahab** [Egypt] in pieces, as one who is slain; You have scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm.

- **Rahab:** lit. Scope/Storm/Arrogance. rt. Pride. Act like a storm

As Jesus rebuked the storm and it was finished
So Jesus pierced Satan's heart on the Third Day

Isaiah 27:1 In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great and strong, **Will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent;** And He **will slay the reptile that is in the sea.**

- **God's Sovereign Power over...**

1. Judgment
2. Creation
3. **Satan that twisted serpent.** The one who is now causing Job pain

14 Indeed these are the **mere edges of His ways**, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?"

Job 27 Job Maintains His Integrity

Truth

1 **Moreover Job continued** his discourse, and said: 2 "As God lives, who has taken away my justice, And the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, 3 As long as my breath is in me, And the breath of God in my nostrils, 4 **My lips will not speak wickedness**, Nor my tongue utter deceit. 5 Far be it from me That I should say you are right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. 6 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.

- I know I walked with Him...

Acts 24:16 [I know judgment is coming] This being so, I myself **always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.**

7 "May my enemy be like the wicked, And he who rises up against me like the unrighteous. 8 For **what is the hope of the hypocrite**, Though he may **gain much**, If God takes away his life? 9 Will God hear his cry When trouble comes upon him? 10 Will he delight himself in the Almighty? Will he always call on God?

Matthew 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he **gains the whole world**, and loses his own soul? Or **what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

Luke 12:20 [Man built another barn for himself] But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

God does not answer the Hypocrite
God hears/answers the Prayers of the Humble

Psalms 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a **broken heart**, And saves such as have a **contrite spirit**.

Psalms 145:18 The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him **in truth**.

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord/**He shall give you** the desires of your heart.

- **God hears/answers those who come to Him...**

1. **In Brokenness**
2. **In Humility**
3. **In Truth**
4. **In Delight**

Who made you three hypocrites my counselors?

11 **"I will teach you** about the hand of God; What is with the Almighty I will not conceal. 12 Surely all of you have seen it; **Why then do you behave with complete nonsense?**

If you say you know God...Why do you act like that?
Angry/Bitter/Unforgiving/Judgmental/Without Mercy?

- **I will teach you about God's judgment...**

13 "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, And the heritage of oppressors, received from the Almighty:

IOWs Keep it up and this what you will receive from God
The end of all who live for self...

14 If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword; And his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread. 15 Those who survive him shall be buried in death, And their widows shall not weep, 16 Though he heaps up silver like dust, And piles up clothing like clay— 17 **He may pile it up**, but the just will wear it, And the innocent will divide the silver. 18 He builds his house like a moth, Like a booth which a watchman makes. 19 The rich man will lie down, But not be gathered up; He opens his eyes, And he is no more. 20 Terrors overtake him like a flood; A tempest steals him away in the night. 21 The east wind carries him away, and he is gone; It sweeps him out of his place. 22 It hurls against him and does not spare; He flees desperately from its power. 23 Men shall clap their hands at him, And shall hiss him out of his place.

- Curses for selfish living throughout Scripture

1. Children will suffer
2. Life of fear/paranoia
3. Family glad when you die
4. **Riches stored up for others...**

Ecclesiastes 2:26 For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but **to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God.** This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Job 28 Discourse on Wisdom

Truth

1 "Surely there is a mine for silver, And a place where gold is refined. 2 Iron is taken from the earth, And copper is smelted from ore. 3 Man puts an end to darkness, And searches every recess For ore in the darkness and the shadow of death. 4 He breaks open a shaft away from people; In places forgotten by feet They hang far away from men; They swing to and fro. 5 As for the earth, from it comes bread, But **underneath it is turned up as by fire**; 6 Its stones are the source of sapphires, And it contains gold dust. 7 That path no bird knows, Nor has the falcon's eye seen it. 8 The proud lions have not trodden it, Nor has the fierce lion passed over it. 9 He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the roots. 10 He cuts out channels in the rocks, And his eye sees every precious thing. 11 He dams up the streams from trickling; What is hidden he brings forth to light.

- **Science following the Word:** v5 Earth interior is *turned up as by fire*

Men do anything for riches...

12 "But **where can wisdom be found?** And where is the place of understanding? 13 **Man does not know its value,** Nor is it found in the land of the living. 14 The deep says, 'It is not in me'; And the sea says, 'It is not with me.' 15 It cannot be purchased for gold, Nor can silver be weighed for its price. 16 It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx or sapphire. 17 Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. 18 No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, For **the price of wisdom is above rubies.** 19 The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold.

[Wisdom] ...is not within the range of human labor and skill to attain unto wisdom. That can only be found by another and a higher method; it must come to us by revelation from God, for we cannot find it by our own efforts. [Spurgeon]

Wisdom is found only by those who fear God
Only a fool does not fear God

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...

Proverbs 1:7 The **fear of the Lord** is the **beginning of knowledge**, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Do we fully comprehend the value of Wisdom?

Proverbs 3:15 She [wisdom] is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are **better than the profits of silver**, And her gain than fine gold. 15 She is **more precious than rubies**, And **all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.**

Why is wisdom so precious? Because it's the opposite of being a fool

- **3 D's of Wisdom:** Cause us to ask questions...

1. **Discernment** Is it Good/Evil, Right/Wrong, Moral/Immoral?
2. **Discretion** I want to but what if I don't...would that be better?
3. **Discipline** I don't want to but I do...would that be better?

20 **"From where then does wisdom come?** And where is the place of understanding? 21 It is hidden from the eyes of all living, And concealed from the birds of the air. 22 Destruction and Death say, 'We have heard a report about it with our ears.' 23 God understands its way, And He knows its place. 24 For He looks to the ends of the earth, And sees under the whole heavens, 25 To establish a weight for the wind, And apportion the waters by measure. 26 When He made a law for the rain, And a path for the thunderbolt, 27 Then **He saw wisdom and declared it;** He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.

God: How shall I define infinite wisdom to finite man?

28 And to man He said, '**Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.'** "

In order to understand wisdom we must understand the fear of the Lord
The Fear of the Lord is to obey His Word and Depart from Evil

Proverbs 8:1-35 Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice? **...35** For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the Lord; 36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

The Fear of the Lord is to obey His Word and Depart from Evil
Discretion/Discernment/Discipline

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, **For this is man's all.**

Job 29 Better Days

Truth

1 Job further continued his discourse, and said: 2 "Oh, that I were **as in months past**, As in the days when God watched over me; 3 When His lamp shone upon my head, And when by His light I walked through darkness; 4 Just as I was in the days of my prime, When the friendly counsel of God was over my tent; 5 When the Almighty was yet with me, When my children were around me; 6 When my steps were bathed with cream, And the rock poured out rivers of oil for me! 7 "When I went out to the gate by the city, When I took my seat in the open square, 8 The young men saw me and hid, And the aged arose and stood; 9 The princes refrained from talking, And put their hand on their mouth; 10 The voice of nobles was hushed, And their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth. 11 When the ear heard, then it blessed me, And when the eye saw, then it approved me; 12 Because I delivered the poor who cried out, The fatherless and the one who had no helper. 13 The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, And I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. 14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban. 15 I was eyes to the blind, And I was feet to the lame. 16 I was a father to the poor, And I searched out the case that I did not know. 17 I broke the fangs of the wicked, And plucked the victim from his teeth. 18 "Then I said, 'I shall die in my nest, And multiply my days as the sand. 19 My root is spread out to the waters, And the dew lies all night on my branch. 20 My glory is fresh within me, And my bow is renewed in my hand.' 21 "Men listened to me and waited, And kept silence for my counsel. 22 After my words they did not speak again, And my speech settled on them as dew. 23 They waited for me as for the rain, And they opened their mouth wide as for the spring rain. 24 If I mocked at them, they did not believe it, And the light of my countenance they did not cast down. 25 I chose the way for them, and sat as chief; **So I dwelt as a king in the army, As one who comforts mourners.**

Job lived a blessed life as he blessed others...

Psalm 1:3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And **whatever he does shall prosper.**

Raining Puppies and Loli Pops...**Until** God allowed Job to be Tested

No darkness is so dark as that which falls on eyes accustomed to the light." [Spurgeon]

Job is passing the primary test of not cursing God but...
Learning some uncomfortable secondary revelations about himself...

Job 30 Lashing Out

Truth

1 "But now they mock at me, men younger than I, Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock. 2 Indeed, what profit is the strength of their hands to me? Their vigor has perished. 3 They are gaunt from want and famine, Fleeing late to the wilderness, desolate and waste, 4 Who pluck mallow by the bushes, And broom tree roots for their food. 5 They were driven out from among men, They shouted at them as at a thief. 6 They had to live in the clefts of the valleys, In caves of the earth and the rocks. 7 Among the bushes they brayed, Under the nettles they nestled. 8 They were sons of fools, Yes, sons of vile men; They were scourged from the land.

Cultivating Bitterness: Too much idol time leading to stinking thinking

- **Young men who now mock me...**

1. Fathers I wouldn't let my dogs near? No use to me anymore?
2. Delinquents living in wilderness. Sons of fools and vile men

Those who used to work for me [*a man of great means*] are now mocking me?

9 "And now I am their **taunting song**; Yes, I am their byword. 10 They abhor me, they keep far from me; They do not hesitate to spit in my face. 11 Because He has loosed my bowstring and afflicted me, They have cast off restraint before me. 12 At my right hand the rabble arises; They push away my feet, And they raise against me their ways of destruction. 13 They break up my path, They promote my calamity; They have no helper. 14 They come as broad breakers; Under the ruinous storm they roll along. 15 Terrors are turned upon me; They pursue my honor as the wind, And my prosperity has passed like a cloud.

- Job lost his situation...

Lost his clout, status, reputation now lashing out... making things worse
Jesus was mocked. Instead of lashing out Jesus forgave...

Isaiah 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Lashing out for relief only makes things worse
When God restores us in his time... All we broke will still need to be fixed

16 "And now my **soul is poured out** because of my plight; The days of affliction take hold of me. 17 My bones are pierced in me at night, And my gnawing pains take no rest. 18 By great force my garment is disfigured; It binds me about as the collar of my coat. 19 He has cast me into the mire, And I have become like dust and ashes.

In a final burst of grief, Job wrestles with the sheer pain of his disease as if it were objectively a terrifying monster, chewing at his flesh day and night." [Andersen]

- **Taunting** has caused Job to... *Lash out his anger at men*
- **Pain** is causing Job to... *Pour out his soul to God*

Psalm 42:1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, **So pants my soul for You, O God.**
2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?
3 My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, "Where is your God?" **4 When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me.**
 For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise, With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.

Jesus did not lash out. Instead He poured out His soul for us...

Psalm 22:14 I am poured out like water...My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

Isaiah 53:12 ... He poured out His soul unto death...He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the [us].

- **Job:** Lashed out/Poured out/Finally Cries out to God

20 "I cry out to You, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You regard me. 21 But You have become cruel to me; With the strength of Your hand You oppose me. 22 You lift me up to the wind and cause me to ride on it; You spoil my success. 23 For I know that You will bring me to death, And to the house appointed for all living. 24 "Surely He would not stretch out His hand against a heap of ruins, If they cry out when He destroys it.

You have become cruel to me...*You spoil my success*

- God wants the glory/Sometimes bring us to the point of death to get it

2 Corinthians 1:8b... we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. **9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,** **10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us...**

A life of usefulness, and happiness, and honor lay before him; and yet he had set up his own tombstone, and reckoned himself a dead man. [Spurgeon]

25 Have I not wept for him who was in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor? **26 But when I looked for good, evil came to me; And when I waited for light, then came darkness. 27 My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; Days of affliction confront me. 28 I go about mourning, but not in the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help. 29 I am a brother of jackals, And a companion of ostriches. 30 My skin grows black and falls from me; My bones burn with fever. 31 My harp is turned [tuned] to mourning, And my flute to the voice of those who weep.**

We must feel sorry for Job as we listen to his mournful cry as that of a Jackal or Ostridge and yet we must remember none the less God owes us nothing. At our best we are unworthy of praise or wages and must still trust in His mercy. [NJC]

Luke 17:7 ...which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? 8 But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, **'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'** "

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 "Or **who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?**" 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

- **Q.** Shouldn't those who show mercy receive mercy? Mat. 5
- **A.** Yes, but we are not owed mercy

God is Good and God is Big and if you are His...God is on your side
Blessed are those who are not offended because of Me

Not offended by My ways or My timing