

Job 29-31 –1 June 2023

“In-Grown Eyeballs”

Introduction

*Book of Job opens w/ heavenly scene in which Satan asks permission to bring calamity into Job’s life

*Chap 3-28 – saw Eliphaz, Bildad & Zophar give speeches (3, 3, 2) & Job responding to each

*His friends didn’t bring comfort or guidance

- *They brought accusations of the need to repent

- *They even brought false allegations

*After such an exasperating time going back & forth with man’s opinion & even lies, Job now talks for 3 chapter recounting the great scheme of his life

*Instead of turning his attention to God in humble submission, Job continues to plead I, I, I, me, me, me!

Today Job gives us 3 clues to tell whether we too have in-grown eyeballs

1st clue is that we need the blessings instead of needing the Blessor (Job 29)

Read Chap 29:1-6

1. Job was personally blessed, he used to be rich & influential
2. Notice he saw the secret to his success in that God was with him & was his counselor
3. In verse 2 he's longing for the past instead of looking to the future
 - a. Should be (Read) Phil 3:13-14

Read Vs 7-11

1. Honor was given to Job by others
2. Maybe he liked the respect so much that now he thinks he needs it again

Read Vs 12-17

1. Job gave love and justice to bless others
2. Seems he's thinking that he deserves to get justice and blessing back from others now

Read Vs 18-20

1. He lived in prosperity of strength & influence
2. Yes but in the days that we have little strength, do we throw a pity party & just focus on self
3. We Read in Rev 3:8 about the church of Philadelphia – Just be faithful to God, the Blessor, regardless of the blessings

Read Vs 21-25

1. He used his influence to help the needy
2. But can we do this without ever expecting to receive in return?

2nd clue is that we need sympathy instead of needing the Savior (Job 30)

Read Chap 30:1-15

1. All the young fools that I tried to help now hold me in derision & mockery
2. ‘Look what they’re doing to me!’

Read Vs 16-18

1. The description of his great physical pain
2. ‘Look at me, I need your attention’

Read Vs 19-24

1. God placed me here & I’ve cried for Him
2. He’s blaming God but in a very pious way
3. He will lead me to the place of death without striking me further

Read Vs 25-31

1. Job sat alone in weakness longing for God, but felt alone
2. God is w/ him thru this whether he felt it or not
3. Read Heb 12:2-3 – endure for the joy ahead
 - a. If your eyes are on today – it’ll be a rollercoaster
 - b. If your eyes are on the destiny – it’ll be more even
 - c. ‘Who can mind the journey when the road leads home?’

3rd clue is that we need reputation instead of needing the Redeemer (Job 31)

Read Chap 31:1-12

1. Job's constant commitment to personal purity
2. There is no sexual sin or sexual covetousness in him
3. Sex is to be compared to a fire (vs 12)
 - a. Fire in the right use warm and brings light
 - b. Fire in wrong use will burn you house down

Read Vs 13-23

1. I have always treated others as I want to be treated b/c God made each of us the same
2. Job's friends have led him into such of a defensive posture, that he just can't let up defending himself
 - a. Job hasn't been broken of the deepest pride
 - b. Read Matt 6:2, 5, 16 – Don't worry about reputation

Read Vs 24-34

1. Job's innocence toward God in not hiding any sin
2. This is a bit like Macbeth – “Thou doth protest to much”
 - a. Job has so grown accustomed to defending himself against specific wickedness...
 - b. That now he seems to have the pride of just defending himself in general

Read Vs 35-40

1. Job longs for God to provide an instruction book (the Bible) for what to do in these situations
 - a. Problem is – The Law won't redeem him; it'll only prove he needs a Redeemer!
2. Don't blame God as our adversary or prosecutor when it's really Satan and sin
 - a. We often blame God Himself for the problems when they're real cause is Satan, other's sin or even our own sin

Conclusion

So, it's very easy in times of distress to develop ingrown eyeballs.

- 1. We need to be relying on the Blessor and not require blessings**
- 2. We need to look to our Savior's example of endurance and not require sympathy to endure**
- 3. We need to take pride in our redemptive Redeemer and not in our reputation**

THIS is what it takes to get rid of the blinders and see what Jesus is trying to do and return to bringing Him glory and honor with every situation