

Job 3-7 –20 April 2023

“Dangers Of Partial Truth”

Introduction

*We opened the Book of Job w/ a heavenly scene in which Satan asks permission to bring calamity into Job’s life (loss of economy, loss of family & health)

*End of Chap 2 Job’s 3 friends come & they quietly mourn w/ him for 7 days

*Chap 3 we begin a long dialogue between friends

*Theme of the book: If God is a God of love, then why do righteous people suffer?

*These friends may have good intentions but we’ll see that their counsel goes way off-track b/c of partial info

*For example, to know only God’s love/grace, but not His justice/truth (or vis versa) will not avail anything

Today we’ll see 3 examples of the dangers of partial truth

1st example of partial truth is in the question: “Is true rest found in a lack of earthly conflict?” (Job 3)

Read Chap 3:1-10 – *Job lament’s his situation*

1. ‘I wish I was never born, that that day never existed’
2. Thinks it would have been better that way – wrong!

Read Vs 11-13

1. Man seeks rest from lack of experience
 - a. Job thinks it would have been better to die young having experienced nothing, rather than experience trouble – wrong
2. God wants us to have rest from experiencing His peace
 - a. It’s better to experience temptation & trial
 - i. This is the place of blessing & reward
 - b. Read Deut 8:2-3 – These things lead us to dependance on God - the just shall live by faith

Read Vs 14-19

1. Job says, ‘In death there is rest’

2. Problem is Job isn't longing for death, he's longing for rest from conflict & sinful consequences
3. Many in depression are just seeking relief from pain, but they mistakenly seek death as the only rest
 - a. Heb 4 shows God's true rest for our souls
 - i. Pictured in the 7th day of Creation rest
 - ii. Israel entering P Land is rest – still work
 - b. Read Matt 11:28-30 – 'Come to Me...'

Read Vs 20-26

1. Life is given to those in misery & the bitter in soul, so we can show dependance on God and cling to Him in faith
2. God is glorified when we look to Him in need and trust Him

2nd example of partial truth is in the question: "Is suffering only caused by personal sin?" (Job 4-5)

Read Chap 4:1-2 – *Eliphaz's 1st speech*

1. I'm going to take a chance at speaking even if it upsets you

Read Vs 3-6

1. You've been a teacher & servant to those in need, BUT...
2. To commend a person w/ a "but" is not to commend them at all
3. 'But now you're in need & your confidence is shaken?' – Where's Eliphaz's pity?

Read Vs 7-11

1. Vs 8 is true, but it's not the whole story
2. Vs 7 is flat wrong
 - a. Read Luke 13:4-5 & II Tim 3:12
 - b. This is why we need the WHOLE Bible

Read Vs 12-16

1. He's saying he had a dream of angels coming
 - a. Trying to claim authority in his words as if vision was from God but (Read Jer 23:28)

Read Vs 17-21

1. So this vision said "we all sin" just admit it Job, even angels sin

- a. Although universal sin is true, that's not the only reason there is calamity
- b. In fact, when he says even angels sin, that was actually exact reason of Job's calamity (Satan)!

Read Vs 5:1-2

1. Eliphaz argues that this is common knowledge among all of God's people that only sin causes calamity – wrong

Read Vs 3-7

1. Eliphaz further argues calamity can't come from nowhere (true), there had to be sin from Job (false)

Read Vs 8-16

1. Eliphaz praises God's power & justice
2. These things are praiseworthy of God
3. Just b/c Eliphaz is wrong about whom calamity comes upon, doesn't mean he can't be right about other things

Read Vs 17-26

1. ‘God is chastening you Job for your sin’
2. ‘If you just repent, God will deliver you’
 - a. Said to someone who hasn’t sinned...
 - i. Sounds “holier than thou”
 - ii. Sounds like God is seeking our perfection
 - b. This is opposite of (Read) Prov 25:11
3. The Word of God misapplied can be harmful, instead of helpful

3rd example of partial truth is in the question: “Is it hopeless when we have no strength?” (Job 6-7)

Read Chap 6:1-7 – *Job’s Response to Eliphaz*

1. Job explains that his deep mournful words of chap 3 are from a place of severe pain of loss
2. Job says, he would not grieve if it were but light affliction & loss

Read Vs 8-10

1. Job hasn’t changed position, still longs for death

2. Job insists he hasn't perverted God's ways in sin

Read Vs 11-13

1. Job insists he has no strength to continue
2. He's right, Psm 121:2 says our help comes from the Lord
 - a. Read Psm 22:19 – Oh Lord my strength
 - b. Read Isa 40:31 – It takes patience

Read Vs 14-23

1. Job criticizes Eliphaz for not giving him a reaction that is fitting Job's situation
2. In vss 22-23 Job says that he didn't ask them for something great or hard, just fitting words

Read Vs 24-30

1. Job challenges him to identify what his specific sin is if he's so sure that Job's in sin

Read Vs 7:1-5

1. Job compares his existence to weary labor without rest or satisfaction

2. Read John 4:13-14 – If we only drink the water of this world, we'll remain weak & unsatisfied
3. Yes in this world there is no rest, but that's only partial truth, continue to hear what God says about living for Him & drinking THAT water

Read Vs 6-10

1. This is a picture of hopelessness
2. Yes apart from God, it is hopeless
3. But thanks be to God who has given us a living hope (Read I Pet 1:3) by the resurrection of Jesus!

Read Vs 11-16

1. Job is simply, hopelessly longing for death

Read Vs 17-21

1. Now Job appeals to God asking, 'have I sinned?'
2. Job sees himself as low b4 God in a depressed way – as if God spits on us in our low estate
3. But it's more like the Psalmist said in (Read) 8:3-6, yes we're low but God has done great things for us – what grace

Conclusion

So what do we learn about the dangers of partial truth? The important of continually coming to the Bible to learn to whole counsel of God, not just part

- 1. Is true rest found in a lack of earthly conflict?**
 - a. No, true rest is found in satisfaction w/ our relationship w/ Jesus & our secure destiny
- 2. Is suffering only caused by personal sin?**
 - a. No, suffering comes from either our sin, others sin thru time or directly from Satan
 - b. Praise God, He brings us thru it all!
- 3. Is it hopeless when we have no strength?**
 - a. No, we don't rely on our own strength but on Christ's resurrection power flowing thru us!

So learn the Word of God, learn ALL OF IT, so we can correctly blend all that God has for us!