

That's Not What Friends Are For

The Job Narrative

Job 2:11-13 KJV

11 “Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.”

Job 32:1-11 KJV

1 “So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

2 Then was kindled the wrath of **Elihu** the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God.

3 Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.

4 Now **Elihu** had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he.

5 When **Elihu** saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, then his wrath was kindled.

6 And **Elihu** the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; Wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion.

7 I said, Days should speak, And multitude of years should teach wisdom.

8 But there is a spirit in man: And the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

9 Great men are not always wise: Neither do the aged understand judgment.

10 Therefore I said, Hearken to me; I also will shew mine opinion.

11 Behold, I waited for your words; I gave ear to your reasons, Whilst ye searched out what to say.”

Introduction: The Trial Before the Triumph

The story of Job is not an isolated incident, but it is a story that parallels to many other stories in the biblical archives of historical records. But it is also a relative story to many preceding experiences, that even today many people when facing hard places, compare themselves to Job. The real reality is that, life is filled with complexities, complications, catastrophe's and controversies. Nothing is off the tables of testing, when faith is being mastered and matured. Don't fool yourselves into believing that trouble is avoidable just because you are a believer.

Sometimes things fall apart so that what's coming can fall into place. God invades comfortable places in order to create space and room for the arrival of your destiny season. Coming into your destiny does not mean that you are finished, it only means that you are done with the processes that it took to get you into full compliance with your divine purpose. Next level doesn't mean new devils (**no such thing**), it means , no more delays and new demands, that align with the new level of responsibility that you have stepped into. **“We never live in process, we live and move through process.”** We live in the purpose that took time, testings, temptations and trials to get us here.

However, we must never come into our destiny, carrying poisonous people as permanent partners, who portray loyalty while masking betrayal. There are psychological disciplines that are sent to influence the development of our cognitive dissonance, emotional endurance and equilibrial balance. We have to learn the difference between motion and movement, so that we can handle the discourse of force and conflicts that oppose the progress of our matured movement. Coming into destiny implies that stop was never a negotiation for the compromise of our ultimate purpose. Some people were sent to stall us into stagnation and settled alternatives. But not so, because we kept going when quitting would've been easier. We lost relationships that we once valued, but didn't value us. We stayed alert even when abandonment tried to adopt us into obscurity; but we learned the principle of adapting and adjustment and we just kept on rolling.

Some people will ride on your bus, but when the wheels on your bus gets flat, lose air, they look for another bus because they were only interested in the ride, not the rough roads of the journey that damaged your tires. They got tired of the delays and determined that you were done. But That's Not What Friends Are For, nor Will they Be. But thank God for Fixa-Flat Friends; those are people who are not called to give you new tires, but to give you enough encouragement to lift you back up and get you back on the road, until the changing of new tires became possible and purposed. That's What Chosen Friends Are For. So Let's look at the nature of the friends that Job had.

The Resume, The Rational and The Rebuke of Jobs 3 Friends

Eliphaz the Temanite:

Speaks to Job:

- **Job 4-5** (first speech)
- **Job 15** (second speech)
- **Job 22** (third speech)

God rebukes him:

- **Job 42:7-9**

7 “And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.

8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.”

9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamath went and did according as the Lord commanded them: the Lord also accepted Job.

Bildad the Shuhite

Speaks to Job:

- **Job 8** (first speech)
- **Job 18** (second speech)
- **Job 25** (third speech)

Included in God's rebuke: Job 42:7-9

Zophar the Naamathite

Speaks to Job:

- **Job 11** (first speech)
- **Job 20** (second speech)
(No third speech is recorded.)

Included in God's rebuke:

- **Job 42:7-9**
- **Eliphaz the Temanite** — The oldest and most gentle-sounding. He leaned on personal experience and visions, believing suffering was usually tied to sin.
- **Bildad the Shuhite** — The traditionalist. He appealed to the wisdom of past generations and strongly defended God's justice.
- **Zophar the Naamathite** — The bluntest and harshest. He quickly assumed Job had sinned and called him to repent.

Eliphaz = experience

Bildad = tradition

Zophar = harsh rebuke

Jobs three friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, Judged him based on persnal accumulated experience and personal opinions. But they misrepresented God in their personal essays of Job and God rebuked them. You see there is a difference between Sympathy and Empathy. Sympathy is feeling for someone, having pity, sorrow or care for their struggles, while remaining emotionally detached. Empathy is not feeling for but feeling with someone. It requires stepping into the struggling persons shoes, relating to their experience, and sharing the emotion with them, not just for them, therefore building a connection that's deeper than emotional sensing. **Sympathy Acknowledges, while Empathy Understands.** This leads me to this young man named **Elihu**, who I believe is a reflection of the youthful generation. He was not a part of the rebuke, but the restoration.

Elihu was a Silent Listener and he is not mentioned in the earlier chapters of Job. He remained quiet as the other three debated with Job, but out of respect for his elders he stayed quiet but he listened. When he did speak he spoke out of anger against the three older friends for failing to properly refute Job. But he was angry with Job for trying to aggressively justify himself over God. While both jobs friends and Elihu believed that suffering was connected to sin, his approach was distinct. His approach was this.

1. Correction: Some people are not interested in, nor invested in you getting it right, but instead they coerce you into keeping it wrong.

He rebuked Job for claiming to be without sin, and for questioning God's justice.

2. God's Sovereignty:

Elihu focused heavily on God's omnipotence and majesty, arguing that God is too great for humans to fully understand or question.

3. Suffering as Discipline: Pain is not a sign of punishment, but progressive development.

Rather than strictly viewing suffering as a direct punishment for a terrible sin, Elihu suggested that God uses pain as a form of loving discipline and revelation, keeping people from destruction and teaching them humility. Even being good can give birth to trouble, You're not holy until you have completely and correctively handled un-holiness.

4. The Remedy and Ransom: There is always a bail out when you fall out.

Uniquely Elihu also speaks of a mediator or ransom, someone who can intercede for a suffering person and

restore them to God's favor instead of referring them to God's judgment.

Personal Life Application of Personal Principles

- **When people don't know what you're building, they shouldn't criticize the construction of your development process.**
- **The noise of the world always try to out volume the whisper of your calling.**
- **The people with the most opinions about you should be seen as option for you, not an obligation.**
- **Don't leave your dreams and the reality of your dreams to the interpretation of those who were not in that dream with you.**
- **True friends don't feel an entitlement to inject themselves into a decisive position in what you do or don't do, in response to the path of your purpose.**
- **True friends know when they should pray for you, and not pressure you to help them understand your decisions about your life.**
- **Some people define you by the storms they see you go through.**

- **It's hard for some people to see you as a private and possible winner, when they're keeping count on how many times they've watch you lose.**
- **God will let you lose publicly in order to expose the wrong people that you've given access to your private spaces.**
- **It's one thing to bring people into your private spaces, but don't give them keys to enter at will.**
- **Some people will reward the performative but will punish with criticism the season where you are being told to be quiet and patient.**
- **Grace is like a nonstick pan, that doesn't have to be oiled in order to keep mistakes from sticking to your character. When the heat is turned off, Grace won't leave the fragments that was a part of the process.**

THE APOSTOLIC DECLARATION AND MANAGING MANIFESTATION

Capability and Cop-ability from the outside often breaks through the surface all at once and nobody sees it coming. But they will see it, just not yet the version of you on the other side of this season. I want you to close your eyes for a moment or

if you're watching this, just soften your gaze and think about the version of you that's waiting on the other side of this season. This person wakes up differently not because life is perfect, It isn't. But because you fought through the silence, you moved through the uncertainty without constantly needing to be seen. You built this thing when it wasn't glamorous, when nobody was watching, when the doubt was loudest. Now you have something that no external circumstance can take away. Not just the money, not just the opportunity, but the knowing; the deep, unshakable knowing that you are capable. Knowing that you survived the hardest version of this; knowing that you are not someone to whom good things randomly happened.

You are someone who built a life worth living, brick by quiet brick. That version of you is not far away, but you require one thing from the person you are today. Keep going in silence with certainty without permission.

Sometimes, You will forget why you started, on those days come back to this. You were chosen for something specific, not chosen because you're perfect or because you've never failed or because your story is clean and easy. Chosen because something within you, despite everything you've been through, refused to give up on the life that was shown to you. Keep returning to that dream like a compass returning to north. No matter how many times you get knocked off course, you find your way back. That is not ordinary that is rare, and rare things are worth protecting, with every form of discipline and silence you can summon.

So let the world wonder. Let them guess. Let them underestimate you for one more season, because the moment your breakthrough arrives, and it is arriving, and it won't need an explanation. It won't need a caption, it won't need their validation. It will just be undeniable. Move in silence, build in private and win in public. The wealth, the real wealth of peace, purpose, and abundance, is already making its way to you. May is the launching of the spirit and anointing of manifestation of our better good, but we are now in the season of it. Not because we are good but because we are **GRACED** for it. Shout these words with Me. **MANIFESTATION, I AM GRACED FOR IT. Now Sow A Seed of PRAISE!!**

Don't stop now. You are so much closer than you think.

MANIFESTATION AFTER THE MESS

Job 42:10-17 KJV

“And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his

sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold. So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Keren-happuch. And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days.”