

Elihu Tells it Like it Is  
Young Elihu, Job's Fourth Friend, Finally Speaks Out

**Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.**

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

**Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.**

- Job 32:2-3 reveals the underlying motivation for Elihu's outburst against Job. Let's read these verses again, identify the motivation for his monologue, and discuss the dangers in allowing this motivating factor to direct our speech.
- One huge issue with Elihu's examination of Job was that Elihu assumed that his opinion was likewise God's opinion. In chapter 36-37 he even claimed to be speaking for God as God's mouth to Job. What are the dangers of having an opinion, and assuming that God sees our situation the same way that we do? How can this kind of spiritual arrogance lead to errors, and deep wounds to other believers?
- Elihu supposed that God commanded the weather to bless or to curse people in response to their righteous/unrighteous living (See Job 37:11-13). In Elihu's mind, if a person experienced a flood, rains that destroyed their fields, scorching sun, destructive lightning...things like these, it meant that God had cursed him and was punishing that person for some sin or wickedness. Have you heard these kinds of theological talking points today, and what does Job teach us about whether this is true or false theology?
- We know that there are other places in the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, where God speaks in terms of blessings and curses. One example of this would be Leviticus 26. In that chapter, the Lord specifically talks about the blessing of rain upon their crops. With this in mind, what assumptions did Job's friends make about righteous Job when they looked at his suffering? Is it possible that they were misusing, or misrepresenting the Word of God in reaching their conclusions?

**Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:**

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Ezekiel 36:22-28
- Deuteronomy 30:19

**Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?**

- Friends, let's be careful to understand two important truths...first, we all have biases, and second, we need to learn what those biases are. Would you commit to taking a good long look at your own biases to do your best to identify them, and to understand how they might color your view of God and of His Word?
- When you think about suffering in your own life or in the life of others, do you more closely resemble Elihu's attitudes or those of Job? What might God be saying to you in all of this?