

Job 6:1-30

Job was in this place, wondering why he was going through his ordeal. He is wondering why he had to endure such suffering to such an unbelievable degree.

In chapter 6, Job responds to the counsel he received from Eliphaz, who basically said, “Job, the reason you’re going through all this pain and sorrow is because you are in sin.”

1 Then Job answered and said:

2 "Oh, that my grief were fully weighed, And my calamity laid with it on the scales!

3 For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea-- Therefore my words have been rash.

Job says you don’t get it. The weight of my grief is like all the sand on all the beaches in the world.

4 For the arrows of the Almighty are within

me; My spirit drinks in their poison; The terrors of God are arrayed against me.

Job felt like God is against him.

5 Does the wild donkey bray when it has grass, Or does the ox low over its fodder?

Job says even the wild donkey or the ox doesn't cry out when he is fed. Job is saying I'm crying out because your words aren't feeding my soul. I'm not finding any comfort in what you are saying.

**6 Can flavorless food be eaten without salt?
Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?
7 My soul refuses to touch them; They are as loathsome food to me.**

Job is saying, "What you've put on my plate, Eliphaz, is tasteless and bitter and indigestible. The speech you made to me, and the accusations you've made against me are impossible to swallow. Job is telling Eliphaz, "You don't understand the heaviness of my

heart, why I am feeling bitterness. You don't get why I feel hopeless."

**8 "Oh, that I might have my request, That
God would grant me the thing that I long for!**

**9 That it would please God to crush me,
That He would loose His hand and cut me
off!**

**10 Then I would still have comfort; Though
in anguish, I would exult, He will not spare;
For I have not concealed the words of the
Holy One.**

Job is saying, "God is withholding the one thing I long for: death,"

Thank God the Lord for unanswered prayers. Thank God He doesn't answer all of our prayers with a "Yes"? "No" is just as much an answer to prayer as "Yes" is.

"Wipe me out," Job had prayed. But the Lord knew that wouldn't be best for Job. He had a plan for Job.

When our prayers don't seem to be answered, we need to learn to rejoice because a "No" is just as much an answer as "Yes" is. Because God understands we're limited in our knowledge, that we see dimly darkly.

Jesus intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father. Romans 8:26, **"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."**

God does not need our counsel as to how to get the job done and yet so often we can find ourselves praying not Thy will but mine be done.

11 "What strength do I have, that I should hope? And what is my end, that I should prolong my life?

12 Is my strength the strength of stones? Or is my flesh bronze?

Job says to Eliphaz, do you think I am as strong

as a rock or bronze? I can't keep going round after round with you.

13 Is my help not within me? And is success driven from me?

14 "To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, Even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

15 My brothers have dealt deceitfully like a brook, Like the streams of the brooks that pass away,

16 Which are dark because of the ice, And into which the snow vanishes.

17 When it is warm, they cease to flow; When it is hot, they vanish from their place.

“You are like streams,” Job says to his friends.

“In the wintertime, the rivers flow with snow and ice. But when things get hot in the summer, they dry up and there is no refreshment there.”

Job is saying, “I’m going through trials that are like the heat of summer and you don’t have any words of refreshment for me?”

18 The paths of their way turn aside, They go nowhere and perish.

19 The caravans of Tema look, The travelers of Sheba hope for them.

20 They are disappointed because they were confident; They come there and are confused.

Contrast Job's cry with the words of the Psalm 84:5-7, **"Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion."**

The word, "Baca" means "weeping." Therefore, the valley of Baca is a valley of weeping and sorrows, a place where tears are shed. The thing to remember is that, when you're in that valley, going through tough times, the wells formed from the tears that flow down your cheeks can actually refresh others who will come after you in their journey with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”**

21 For now you are nothing, You see terror and are afraid.

**22 Did I ever say, 'Bring something to me'?
Or, 'Offer a bribe for me from your wealth'?**

Job asks, “Did I ask you to bring me a gift because of what I’m going through?”

All Job wanted was compassion.

**23 Or, 'Deliver me from the enemy's hand'?
Or, 'Redeem me from the hand of oppressors'?**

**24 "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue;
Cause me to understand wherein I have erred.**

Job says, show me where I am wrong and I'll be quiet.

25 How forceful are right words! But what does your arguing prove?

Words carry weight.

26 Do you intend to rebuke my words, And the speeches of a desperate one, which are as wind?

27 Yes, you overwhelm the fatherless, And you undermine your friend.

Job asks, "do you think I'm talking just to hear myself talk?"

28 Now therefore, be pleased to look at me; For I would never lie to your face.

Have you ever been listening to someone lie to you and you find you cant even look at them any longer. You just look down in bewilderment. Maybe Job's friends cant bear to look him in the

eye not believing what he is saying so Job says, “look at me, I’m not lying to you.”

29 Yield now, let there be no injustice! Yes, concede, my righteousness still stands!

30 Is there injustice on my tongue? Cannot my taste discern the unsavory?

Job says I know right from wrong. Tell me where I am wrong? Job invites his friends to examine his life and see where he is in error.

Job 7

In chapter 7 Job paints a picture of the pointlessness of life, its suffering, and on top of everything else life’s a vapor.

1 "Is there not a time of hard service for man on earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hired man?"

The bumper sticker “Life is hard than you die.”

We live in a fallen world. It doesn't always have to be sin.

2 Like a servant who earnestly desires the shade, And like a hired man who eagerly looks for his wages,

3 So I have been allotted months of futility, And wearisome nights have been appointed to me.

Even a slave or a laborer gets a break from their labor. I don't get a break.

Job's trial has lasted months so far... we have no idea how long. His trial didnt go into years but it did go into long

4 When I lie down, I say, 'When shall I arise, And the night be ended?' For I have had my fill of tossing till dawn.

Job is suffering from insomnia... the days are hard and the nights are long. Job cant get comfortable. He cant sleep. He couldn't wait for the night to end.

5 My flesh is caked with worms and dust, My skin is cracked and breaks out afresh.

His condition seems to be worsening... the boils and now worms and dust...

6 "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, And are spent without hope.

7 Oh, remember that my life is a breath! My eye will never again see good.

He doesn't believe life will ever see good in his life again.

8 The eye of him who sees me will see me no more; While your eyes are upon me, I shall no longer be.

Life is short and the good old days are gone! I'll never know pleasure again!

9 As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up.

10 He shall never return to his house, Nor shall his place know him anymore.

Job doesn't believe he will live much longer nor will he ever get his old life back

11 "Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

Job is saying, "I'm going to speak out of the condition of my life, the agony, the futility, and the brevity."

12 Am I a sea, or a sea serpent, That You set a guard over me?

Job is crying out to God wanting to know if he is a danger to the world that God would be angry with Job and allowing all these things to happen.

Job wants to know why his friends are there? Is this funny or entertaining to you?

13 When I say, 'My bed will comfort me, My couch will ease my complaint,'

He thinks sleep will give him a break from the mental anguish he is feeling.

**14 Then You scare me with dreams And terrify me with visions,
15 So that my soul chooses strangling And death rather than my body.
16 I loathe my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone, For my days are but a breath.**

Job tells his friends that instead of bringing him comfort they are weighing him down with their words, with their dreams and visions.

James 3:17-18, **“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”**

17 "What is man, that You should exalt him,

**That You should set Your heart on him,
18 That You should visit him every morning,
And test him every moment?**

Job directs his response to God rather than to Eliphaz.

His counselors talked about God. Job talked to God. There is a huge difference. I like to be around people who not only talk about God, but talk to Him.

19 How long? Will You not look away from me, And let me alone till I swallow my saliva?

20 Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, So that I am a burden to myself?

21 Why then do You not pardon my transgression, And take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust, And You will seek me diligently, But I will no longer be."

Literally, Job prays to God, "If I have sinned,

what do You want from me?” In his prayer, we see respect, reverence, and awe but we also see raw honesty as Job asks, “Lord, what is going on here?”

Job says but you better hurry God as I don't have much time left.

Job

Biggest question in the midst of a trial is “why” “why is this happening” the explanation of the trials we face would undermine the lesson God is teaching us

As Job speaks Bildad enters the conversation in chapter 8...

Job 8

1 Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

**2 "How long will you speak these things,
And the words of your mouth be like a**

strong wind?

Bildad accuses Job of being full of hot air.

Do you think Job is feeling like slugging Bildad.

Wow... Job is wanting to die and Bildad says can you just cut to the point. Quit the long answers!

3 Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice?

Bildad accuses Job of challenging God's justice.

4 If your sons have sinned against Him, He has cast them away for their transgression.

Eliphaz had said Job's kids died because of Job's sin

Bildad tells Job, not only are you in sin, but your kids are dead because of they sinned.

5 If you would earnestly seek God And

**make your supplication to the Almighty,
6 If you were pure and upright, Surely now
He would awake for you, And prosper your
rightful dwelling place.**

Bildad says to Job, "If you would get right, pray and repent, God would bless you."

"But since you are suffering that indicates that you haven't and you're in a backslidden state."

Prosperity is based on our faith not on God's grace. If we would just believe we'd receive!

**7 Though your beginning was small, Yet
your latter end would increase abundantly.**

Job your life could have been blessed had you lived a righteous life.

**8 "For inquire, please, of the former age,
And consider the things discovered by their
fathers;**

**9 For we were born yesterday, and know
nothing, Because our days on earth are a**

shadow.

10 Will they not teach you and tell you, And utter words from their heart?

“Don’t just take my word for it,” Bildad says. “History speaks for itself.” Listen to the fathers that have died and gone on before us, the wisdom of men who are smarter than us. If you are not doing well in life, don’t blame God.

11 "Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water?"

12 While it is yet green and not cut down, It withers before any other plant.

Bildad tells Job, “don’t just listen to the instruction of the fathers, but learn the lessons of nature too. The reed can pop up and the grass can grow, but if the reed doesn’t have mud and the grass doesn’t have water, they’ll fade away in the heat of the sun. If something dries up, it’s because it’s out of touch with the source of water.

In other words, there's something wrong with the root system. His conclusion was there was something wrong with Job's root system.

(Maybe Jesus had this in mind when He said to get the log out of our own eye... a dead log that is not being nourished by the root)

**13 So are the paths of all who forget God;
And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish,**

Bildad is saying, "You prospered for a season, Job. You once were the wealthiest man in all the east. You appeared to have it all together, but now, in the end, the truth has come out. Your roots are now exposed and your dried up and are not in touch with a water source."

**14 Whose confidence shall be cut off, And
whose trust is a spider's web.**

**15 He leans on his house, but it does not
stand. He holds it fast, but it does not
endure.**

Bildad warns Job, "If you lean against a spider

web, you're making a big mistake. It can't support you. So, too, your house was due to collapse because it had no firm foundation,"

Jesus said something similar... he who builds his house upon the sand will suffer total ruin but he who builds his house upon the Rock will stand against the rain and the winds!

16 He grows green in the sun, And his branches spread out in his garden.

17 His roots wrap around the rock heap, And look for a place in the stones.

18 If he is destroyed from his place, Then it will deny him, saying, 'I have not seen you.'

19 "Behold, this is the joy of His way, And out of the earth others will grow.

Bildad's third illustration from nature concerns a plant that finds a fertile place among the stones and it grows. But when it's removed, it's not missed. Bildad's belief is Job was in the process of being uprooted and that others will take his place. This is the outcome of hypocrisy Bildad is saying.

Solomon says something similar himself,

20 Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, Nor will He uphold the evildoers.

21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, And your lips with rejoicing.

22 Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, And the dwelling place of the wicked will come to nothing."

Bildad says to Job, "If you get right with God, if you will repent and confess your sin and stop claiming to be innocent, God can bless you again,"

In chapter 9 Job will object to Bildad's speech. "Job, there's sin in your life. That's why these things have come upon you," Eliphaz said. "And you continue to sin by denying that you are in sin," Bildad added. "God is holy. He judges rightly. Therefore, there must be some sin your life," Eliphaz said. "How dare you challenge God's justice?" Bildad asked. Eliphaz and Bildad no doubt thought they were doing God a

favor by standing up for Him.

They were right that God is just.

But they were dead wrong in assuming God's justice was the only issue at play, for there was something going on of which neither they nor Job was aware.