

December 20

Job 40:3-4 (NKJV) ³ Then Job answered the Lord and said: ⁴ “Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. **Job 1:8 (NIV)** ⁸ Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

Lorraine had started a new job. She was both excited and nervous as it carried more responsibility and demands. Her first couple of weeks were spent under the tutelage of an employee who had been there for some years. Lorraine was feeling more confident as the time passed and felt she could handle the new role. Quickly, however, the demands began to accumulate. On a very busy day, she prepared a company-wide email that contained very important updates. The following day, her supervisor asked her why she had not sent the email. Its absence had caused considerable problems. Confused, Lorraine looked for the email and realized that she had composed it but had never sent it. She apologized profusely, and her supervisor forgave her. However, Lorraine was being moved to a different position. Confused, Lorraine said, “But you forgave me.” “Yes,” her supervisor said, “but the mistake is still there.”

These two passages seem to be another contradiction. How can Job be blameless and upright and vile at the same time. The LORD begins by telling the enemy to consider Job, an upright and blameless man. Now, if the LORD made that comment, it is the absolute truth. However, later, when Job and his friends begin to speak for God, God confronts Job. Job realizes that in the presence of God, he truly is vile and unworthy to speak in the LORD’s presence. Both are true. Many people today believe that Jesus died for their sins; therefore, they are forgiven. They believe that is the end of their worries because Jesus has taken the blame for them. However, there is a big difference between being forgiven and being cleansed and made righteous. Job was truly a vile man, just as we all are vile before the holiness of God. However, for those who turn to Jesus, who repent, and who submit to Him, they also become blameless and upright by His blood. Jesus died for all of us. His salvation, however, is for those who humble themselves, accept Him as Lord and Savior, and commit to following Him. For them, they are blameless and upright.