

Character Study: Job
Part 3 – Job Gives His Final Defense
Job 29-31

What's happening?

- Job wrapped up the conversation with his friends by summarizing his thoughts. He reflected back on when he enjoyed God's blessing, had the respect of people, and anticipated living a long life. (29:1-25)
- He expressed the misery of his current state and the pain of seeing people now laughing at him. In light of his horrible situation, he did not understand why God did not answer his questions. (30:1-31)
- Job explained how he had been without fault. He kept his eyes pure (31:1), treated people fairly (31:13), and helped the poor (31:16-18). He never trusted in his wealth (31:24-25, 28) or even sought revenge against those who hated him (31:29-30). He could understand an unrighteous person experiencing what he had gone through, but was baffled that God would not explain why he was experiencing these things (31:3-6, 35).

What's God doing?

> Job summarized his argument and presented his case. If Job was in fact innocent as he claimed, God could now affirm it. If Job was guilty of an unknown sin, God could now expose that as well. All Job needed was God to pronounce the verdict. Yet, God remained silent!

What's to learn?

- Whether someone experiences tragedy or experiences prosperity, neither one is necessarily a reflection on their character. Job learned that there are some righteous people who suffer (9:22) and there are some wicked people who prosper (21:7-18). While Job's friends would not accept this reality, Job simply could not understand how it could be.
- Job raised a good question: Why do good people experience suffering in this world? Job could not find an answer, as is often the case for us as we contemplate such things. But a few truths do not change: God is always in control and our hope is in Him, not in our circumstances.
- From our view, we can see more than Job did about what was going on behind the scenes. Our reaction is to tell Job to be patient, for God knows what is going on. It is easy to tell that to someone, but do we put that advice into practice when we are the ones going through suffering?

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