

**CCF Study Notes**  
**Tuesday 7 AM Study**  
**26 September 2006**  
**Job 32-37**

Before beginning to read from Job let's spend time in prayer, considering how we are presently walking with God. Let us ask God to help us to do the following:

1. **Weigh** all wisdom against the whole counsel of God revealed in all of scripture,
2. **Speak** to God and to all men out of the overflow of His Holy Spirit in us,
3. **Obe**y God simply every moment of our lives,
4. **Avoid** self-righteousness, instead letting the righteousness of God dwell in us,
5. **Glorify** God in every circumstance and in every way, and
6. **Meditate** long on the majesty of God.

The three friends of Job, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, have finally given up on Job. Job had made his closing statement concerning his position in this time of suffering. Another voice speaks out of the awkward silence. Elihu speaks. Elihu is younger yet gentler and wiser than the other three friends. Elihu comes as a Spirit-inspired counselor with a different perspective on what has been going on through the long discourses of Job. Elihu has been listening carefully and has perceived the basic problem. This is no court case. This is no battle of philosophical wits. God is just and righteous and loving. The major issue is not past sin on Job's part, but a present bad attitude both on Job's part and on the part of Job's three friends. Job and his friends are demonstrating a very bad attitude toward God. Elihu offers an attitude adjustment. How often are we blinded by our own bad attitudes?

As the youngest speaker, Elihu graciously apologizes for even speaking. His elders have not won their battle with Job, nor found relief for their own souls. Everybody is now frustrated and seeking some relief for their anguish and perplexity. The suggestion offered is that there is a deplorable lack of inspiration. Unless the Holy Spirit breathe God's word through us we really have nothing to offer and nobody really benefits. Unless the Spirit of God blow through our churches we have nothing to offer the world but dead orthodoxy. The whole issue has been that dead orthodoxy was not able to find wisdom suitable to Job's particular case.

Elihu offers something nobody thought to offer Job. Elihu offers to go before God on Job's behalf. This is the essence of intercessory prayer and is a duty of every believer. Job's friends would have done better to simply pray with Job and wait for God's word on the matter. God does not have to answer our charges or complaints. When God chastens it is always corrective and never merely punitive. God rejoices when we come to Him in prayer and seek His face. God works are all good works. Job has a chance to speak. Job chooses not to speak. Job is not yet ready to come humbly before God. Would God be silenced as easily as Job's friends?

In our suffering and agony, we often question God's justice. This was the very first temptation of Satan – the temptation to question God's justice and love. The truth of the matter is that

God's justice is perfect and His love is infinite. We simply do not understand God's love and justice from our limited temporal perspective. The issue is our attitude toward God. We complain about God's love and justice when we don't see or understand it.

We often become self-righteous when we feel that our suffering is unjust. We must never ask God for justice – we might just get it! What we need is God's mercy. We must never parade our righteousness before God or men. Rather we must acknowledge our sin and our need for the cleansing in the blood of Jesus Christ. Our righteousness is as filthy rags. It is our love and faith that God requires. When we begin to defend the justice of our cause before God or before men, we engage in folly.

What can we say concerning God? God is perfect in knowledge, so we need not plead our case before God. God knows more details than we know! God will preserve justice. If justice seems ill-served in this life, we can be certain that justice will reign in eternity. In the end everything will come out right. God even uses suffering to improve his saints. Who teaches like God? We do not know God well enough to pass judgment on God or argue with God or make deals with God. All of these show an attitude of irreverence toward God.

A bad attitude reveals an issue in our hearts. When our hearts are lifted up in praise and adoration then our attitude toward God will be right. When our hearts are weighed down with the burdens and trials of this life we will not have a right attitude toward God. The toughest thing for one who is suffering is to simply wait and listen for what God will teach us. When we are ready to be taught concerning God, then we have come to the end of ourselves. And one important thing that we need to be taught is what we should say to God. When our hearts are right before God we are taught by His Spirit and by His word. Then we come to know God and speak with him through the work of our Mediator, Jesus Christ. Do you notice who got the most from Jesus' ministry on earth, as recorded in the gospels? It was those who were most humble and teachable that got the most out of what Jesus came to say and do. So it is with us today! Repent, humble your heart before God and allow God to teach you and lead you in right paths, for the kingdom of God is at hand. God wants to rule in us!

Next week we will hear God's answer to all these discourses. Job was now ready to listen. He was finished talking and arguing. Job was finished looking at things from an earthly perspective. God could now speak to Job knowing that Job would listen and benefit from what God had to say. And the healing would come as Job's heart was right before God. Are you ready to listen to what God might be saying to you today? The healing comes when we are ready to listen and be taught by God.

P.S. Recordings of these studies in John, the Prophets, and Job and copies of these notes are now available on a new website at <http://www.jstoker.name> . A podcast is also available there or at <http://feeds.feedburner.com/CCF-T-Podcast> .