

Words of Life

(August 3, 2007)

I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Job 42:5,6

To me, the book of Job is one of the most mysterious books in all the Bible. There are certain aspects of the account of this man's life that no matter which way I look at it, it just doesn't make sense. I'm certain that is one of the lessons of the entire book. Things will not always make sense to us. We will not always be able to figure out why things happen the way they do. Even after some of the circumstances of our lives have run their course, and we look back in hindsight, we may not "get it."

The book starts out good. We are introduced to Job as a man who loves God and hates evil. He is referred to as a "blameless and upright" man. We are introduced to his family and the magnitude of his wealth and possessions. Good so far. But then as we read we are brought into the heavenlies and given a ringside seat to a dialogue between God and the devil in which God points Job out as a godly man. You can almost feel your stomach sinking as the devil challenges God to a test in which Job becomes the testing grounds.

From then on it is pretty much down hill for Job. He loses his family, his possessions and even his health as the devil is given authority to strike him to within an inch of his life. The questions begin to burst forth in the mind of every reader of this book. God, why? What did Job do to deserve this? Why is this being allowed? What is going on? If ever a story was written that was able to provoke a similar sentiment within the heart of the reader as that experienced by the main character, Job was it!

We continue to read as some of Job's so called friends tell him there must be some sin in his life that God is judging. Job himself despises the day of his birth, and questions why God would allow such suffering. And then, finally God responds, after what seems like endless silence. He shuts the mouths of Job's friends and renders Job himself speechless as He declares Himself to be almighty God. It is one of the most powerful and descriptive passages we have on the awesome nature of our God (found in chapters 38-41).

It is only with this backdrop that the verse above can in any way be processed. We still may not understand it, but in two short verses we are given a glimpse of the purposes of God in the life of man. Prior to the incredibly difficult experiences of Job's life, he heard God. After those experiences had run their course he saw God!

You may be in a place today where you do not understand the experiences of your life. You may feel as though God is not being fair with you. You may be thinking, God I don't deserve this. It's not right. I have done my best and now I am being hammered by this trial. This really stinks! If that is you, take courage from this difficult and mysterious book of Job. By the time it is over, Job's health is restored, his possessions are restored, his family is restored, and his eyes are opened.

We must never question the wisdom and sovereignty of God. He is ALWAYS working for our good. If you are in the midst of trials too big for you, consider it a privilege that God has chosen you as one to whom He is going to reveal Himself in a special way.

Pastor Ted

The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63