



HMR Men's Neighborhood Bible Study

Job - A Man of Trials, Tribulations, and Faithfulness

Lesson #3: Job 15-21 (Second Cycle of Debate)

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 | 7:00 PM | Prepared by Chris Alexander
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Series Overview

The book of Job provides one of the greatest narratives addressing the interaction of God, man, and Satan. We not only observe God's Sovereignty displayed in this incredible book, but the book dispels the notion that *bad things can't happen to good people*. The trials and tribulations to which Job was subjected, including the loss of his sons, daughters, wealth, and health, were used to display the incredible power God has in controlling the events in our lives and the faithfulness that one man could exhibit while enduring some of life's greatest challenges.

During the "time of COVID" we need to study men like Job in all their humanity struggle with the unknowns of life, while also trusting in God's overall goodness and mercy. When we know God has a plan, specifically one for our lives, it makes almost any experience bearable. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV): *That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Provided below is the outline for our series that will cover 42 chapters in the book of Job over a 7-lesson period. All Scripture is God-breathed and intended to transform our lives. The book of Job is no exception as God intended for us to learn from Job's experiences. God's desire is that as we endure trials and tribulations in our own lives, we remain laser-focused on Him and His plan for our lives. It is essential that we believe He has everything under control, that nothing surprises Him, and through all circumstances His desire is to transform us to be more like Jesus.

Focus	Dilemma of Job	Debate of Job					Deliverance of Job
Lesson Number	1 September 8	2 September 22	3 October 6	4 October 20	5 November 3	6 November 17	7 December 1
Divisions	Controversy between God and Satan	First Cycle of Debate	Second Cycle of Debate	Third cycle of Debate	Final Debate from Job	Solution per Eilihu	Controversy between God and Job
Biblical Passage	Job 1:1 to 2:13	Job 3:1 to 14:22	Job 15:1 to 21:34	Job 22:1 to 26:14	Job 27:1 to 31:40	Job 32:1 to 37:24	Job 38:1 to 42:17
Topics	Conflict & Prose	Debate & Poetry					Repentance & Prose
Location	Heaven & Earth	Land of Uz (North Arabia)					Heaven & Earth
Time	Patriarchal Period (c. 2,000 B.C.)						

Once again, Job's friends provide little comfort to him during his time of need. Job is as low as a man can get, yet his "friends" continue to heap insults, guilt, and shame upon him. I am reminded of the phrase, "with friends like these, who needs enemies?!"

In this week's lesson I would like us to explore the concept of our "worldview". As the word implies, our worldview determines how we "view the world" and determines how we respond to different scenarios and situations. In other words, our worldview is a lens. We have the choice to view life from God's view or our view. Our choice of view has a profound impact on how we live our lives.

1. From a Biblical (New Testament) perspective there are basically three worldviews. In this lesson we will unpack how these worldviews impact the decisions we make in life.

Committed Christian: *I am a steward of what God gives me. I have freedom to make choices but recognize everything I have comes from God. I recognize there is accountability in how I live my life. This view dictates how I interact with people and how I spent my time, wealth, talent, and resources.*

Nominal Christian: *Although I have been taught that everything I have is from God, I have not bought into the "stewardship" concept. I have a relationship with Jesus and understand I will go to Heaven when I die, but while on earth for the most part I am going to do what I want.*

Non-Christian: *What I have is mine. I can go good things if I want to, but I am free to do as I choose. Honesty and truthfulness are choices for me, but they do not dictate my actions. I am not accountable to anyone, including God. What I have I earned is mine and I have no problem taking from others if I want.*

2. The concept of stewardship and worldview dictate everything we do. Like the fundamentals of a golf swing that determine a ball's flight path, failing to get our worldview correct has profound impacts on how we live our lives and the long-term outcome. In the table below, let's list how a person with each of the three worldviews will respond to the areas of life that are listed.

Topic	Worldview: Committed Christian	Worldview: Nominal Christian	Worldview: Non-Christian
Possessions			
Wealth (cash)			
Career			
Parents			
Spouse			
Children			
Friends			
Time			
Integrity*			
Gospel / Sharing faith			

* Consider: *Reputation is what you are in public, integrity is who you are when no one is watching.*

3. Once again, there is a LOT of reading material for this lesson. Listed below are the major themes of the chapters in tonight's lesson. Of the following chapters, which one(s) had the most impact on you?
 - a. Job 15 Eliphaz speaks a second time
 - b. Job 16 Job responds to Eliphaz
 - c. Job 17 Continued from Job 16
 - d. Job 18 Bildad speaks a second time
 - e. Job 19 Job responds to Bildad
 - f. Job 20 Zophar speaks a second time
 - g. Job 21 Job responds to Zophar

4. Read Zophar's words in Job 20. Is Zophar correct in what he says to Job? Like people who often speak into our lives, for much of the book of Job and his friends are "espousing" what they believe to be true and "attempting" to see things from God's perspective. Let's measure their responses in the context of the following passages:

Psalm 1:

Proverbs 15:1-9:

Philippians 3:12-21

5. **Putting it all to work:** Let's be super honest, it's easy to read through the Bible and even be part of a Bible study and not really change how we live our lives. It's easy for Bible study to become academic and not impact the choices we make. This is one reason we need friends who will "push and challenge" us to be more like Jesus! Revisiting our worldview chart, how can we respond to the following areas and people in a way that most honors God?

Topic	Committed Christian Worldview
Possessions	
Wealth (cash)	
Career	
Parents	
Spouse	
Children	
Friends	
Time	
Integrity	
Gospel / Sharing faith	

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00 PM (Job 22 to 26: Third Cycle of Debate)