

JOB SERIES NINE
BIG ENOUGH AND SMALL ENOUGH
DR. ROGER BARRIER
JOB 32-37
(SERMON 1588)

Single Boys think about women a lot. Most of them have a difficult time figuring out how to start.
Pick up lines

SLIDE #1: Pull over, it must be illegal to look that good.
Do you know what would look good on you? Me
I lost my phone number, could I borrow yours?
Would you like some fries with that shake?

Ladies, do any of those sound attractive to you?
But, there is a better way to do that.

“There must be no stars left in the heavens tonight because they are all in your eyes.”

SLIDE #2: Women like to be persuaded, courted, adored, longed for: “When he brings me
flowers and tells me I am beautiful.”
Women like to be wooed. How many of you know the word, “woo.”

Let me show you a most intriguing—and intimate—picture of God in the Bible.

SLIDE #3: JOB 36:16:

Did you ever consider that the transcendent God of the universe is out to woo you into a
relationship with Him.

We are entering that part of Job which brings God into focus.

SLIDE #4: ● God is big enough to run the entire universe(s), yet small enough to be involved in
our lives.

Gary Brown needing to comfort wife: “I want to know more about the God who comforts so I can
better comfort my wife when she is hurting.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.

Tell me about your view of God.

God is a taskmaster. I guess I have the OT God.

Grew up as RCC. They don't do much with Jesus. So much is about Mary.

Hard to comfort when your God is a taskmaster.

Next week: “Thou shalt not have fun.” View of God, bring your lost friends

REVIEW

Job was involved in the cosmic struggle between God and Satan—between good and evil. I hope
you have figured out that we are all involved in that battle—to varying degrees and levels.

Three friends arrived with plans to comfort him. First, they didn't recognize him, which tells us
something about the swelling and sores all over him. Then, at a loss for words, they sat
wordlessly for seven days. Unfortunately, when they spoke they switched from comforting
intentions to massive condemnation.

For almost thirty chapters (Job 4-31) they argue that everything is entirely his fault.

Let me summarize their arguments and Job's responses. Personalities match their names.

■ BUILD SLIDE #5ABC: Eliphaz: "You are suffering because you sinned."

■ SLIDE #6: "Take back your false accusations. I have done nothing wrong." (Is that arrogance or truth? Is any body that good?)

■ BUILD SLIDE #7ABC: Bildad: "You won't admit you sinned, so God is sending more suffering."

■ SLIDE #8: "If I could only get God to talk to me I would demand that He tell me what charges He has against me which would produce such calamity and suffering." (Any indication that he might not be right? No. Implication, "God and I are on equal terms here. I have every right to make demands on Him.)

■ BUILD SLIDE #9ABC: Zophar: "Your sin is so bad you even deserve more suffering than this."

■ SLIDE #10: "I know I will be justified, God has made a mistake." (Mistake?)

Read highlights of Job's concluding defense argument.

JOB 31:5-6: Let God weigh me in the scales, I am blameless" ("Is anyone blameless?")

JOB 31:9, 13, 16, 24, and 26-28: "I have done none of these things!"

JOB 31:35: "I sign my defense."

JOB 31:40: "The words of Job are ended."

At this point everything grinds to a halt.

■ SLIDE #11: JOB 32:11: So these three men stopped answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes."

It is difficult to penetrate the façade of a person who is always right.

Job was being criticized and he handled it poorly—most of us do, too.

Job put up a built up massive walls of defense under the onslaught—most of us do, too.

How to respond to criticism from Julie.

■ SLIDE #12: *Stop and look at the other person.*

Repeat in your own words what you think they said and ask them if you correctly understood what they said.

Carefully look to see if there is any truth to the criticism.

If so, make the appropriate changes.

If not, ignore the criticism and go on.

■ SLIDE #13: JOB 32:2: But Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, became very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God.

Who is Elihu? He was a young bystander who watched the proceedings with his mouth closed. He will speak next—for 6 chapters.

Key to his entire speech: “Elihu is very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God.”

He is the only one of the four who is not disciplined by God. Why? Because he speaks for God.

He identifies Job’s sin so convincingly that when he finishes his speech, Job is speechless.

God picked up the speech right where Elihu left off (they work in tandem).

When both Elihu and God are finished, Job is brought to his knees in broken humility—and he is wooed into an intimate relationship with God.

HIGHLIGHT HIS SPEECH.

READ JOB 32:6-12 – He was young and shy. Great respect for elders.

32:6: Key is not young or old: Key is being a spiritual man.

Elihu is in such tandem with God that he starts God’s speech for him.

SLIDE #14: Elihu Charges Job with The Sin of Presumption and Arrogance: Job Dares to Think That He Knows More Than God Does.”

SLIDE #15: [pix from my bible] READ AND EXPLAIN JOB 33:8-12: "But you have said in my hearing-- I heard the very words--'I am pure and without sin; I am clean and free from guilt. Yet God has found fault with me; he considers me his enemy. He fastens my feet in shackles; he keeps close watch on all my paths.' "But I tell you, in this you are not right, for God is greater than man.

Here is Job’s sin: No one is blameless and without sin. He justifies himself instead of God.

Job is not good enough—and we are not either.

We know Job had a great character: he was a spiritual man, concerned about parenting, cared for his family; watched out for poor and widows; no adultery; no lust; no materialism; no idols.

If Job is not good enough, who is?

SLIDE #16: God Has Provided a Mediating Angel Whose One Job Is to Restore Us to the Ways of Righteousness.

Elihu suggests there is an angel as a mediator for man – 1 of 1000. You may never have seen this before. They are rare – 1 in 1000 we would say.

READ JOB 33:23-30.

What angels do.

Elihu says that there is a special angel who works for the redemption of the afflicted.

Elihu teaches that there is a heavenly intercessor who takes up the sufferer’s case.

His ‘one among a thousand’ is taken by some to mean the mediating angel is a very special heavenly creature. In Elihu’s teaching this angel works for the restoration of those who have strayed from the right way.”

The identity of this mediating angel is uncertain.

Is this a theophany? A work of the preincarnate Jesus Christ?

■ SLIDE #17: Elihu covers four bases.

1. God watches over the righteous.
2. If the righteous commit transgression, He lets them know they've done wrong.
3. If they respond to the rod of discipline He restores them.
4. If they don't, they suffer the consequences (Great theology).

This is the gospel of Christ: All sinned. Confess and repent and come to Christ; Everlasting life.

■ SLIDE #18: Apply this to our criticism test: *Stop and look at the other person.*

Repeat in your own words what you think they said and ask them if you correctly understood what they said.

Carefully look to see if there is any truth to the criticism.

If so, make the appropriate changes.

If not, ignore the criticism and go on.

"He lets them know they've done wrong." How do we get the message from God to us?

God speaks in dreams and visions in the night. Verse 15.

God also speaks in pain.

Circumstances (God closes a door He opens a window)

Preaching

His Word

Other people

Holy Spirit to Human Spirit

We've talked about this before. God loves us too much to let us grow up without a Father who shows us the right way.

Used to think if I were to die young I would leave the children a video tape of advice on how to live. God that in the Bible. Here is how the Father communicates advice and relationship to us.

As Elihu comes to the end of his speech, he begins to introduce Job to the real person of God.

■ SLIDE #19: The Real God Is the One Who Will Both Tremble Us and Thrill Us.

What do you think of when you think of God? Intriguing. What's in your mind?

Look again at the God who thrills us.

READ JOB 36:16-17.

Talk about the heart of God for sinners who have lost their way. Some of wondering how we ended up here in life? Ruined family; life; career;

STORY of Ullie: Corgi: Ron: "Dumbest dog I've ever seen. One year to learn his name.

Bars in our house around porch. Welded opening for dogs to get through bars. Maverick runs right through. Derrek and I wooing Ullie through the opening.

We can't find the door to life. God is wooing us onto the right track.

Now, let's go to the other end of the spectrum—the God who trembles us.

READ JOB 36:26.

Elihu (as well as God when He speaks) deals with His majestic, incomprehensible sovereignty. Elihu helps Job get a pretty good view of God. He trembles when he thinks of Him.

READ JOB 37:1-4.

Pictures God in a thunderstorm—powerful poetry.

READ JOB 37:5

God reveals Himself beyond our comprehension. He is overwhelming!

Story: Girl, “God’s taking my picture!” Tremble and thrill.

Now Elihu begins to show Job how ridiculous it was for him to call God’s actions into question.

God has a bigger plan than Job ever imagined.

God has a bigger plan than we ever imagine.


READ JOB 37:14-18: We know the answers today. Job did not.

READ JOB 37:23-24 – Job, join me in worship

Job is speechless.

When God answered Job, 38:1, He answers out of the storm. Often when God answers, He takes our breath away.

READ JOB 38:1-7.

 SLIDE #20: No stars here. All Galaxies, some are earliest 1st generation giant star formations from 13 billion years ago. All elements other than hydrogen, helium and some lithium were cooked up in these early stars and thrown out into the universe. Every element in body other than hydrogen and helium cooked up in star somewhere else in universe.

READ JOB 38:18.

 SLIDE #21: Curved space from our sun to Vega

 SLIDE #22: Multiple Universes.

Do you know how 10 dimensions work?

2 dimensional plates parallel sliding create a universe

How super strings vibrate to form every piece of matter in the universe?

OVERHEAD: 2 tides on earth instead of one.

(Story of God and Astronomy and how big)

READ JOB 40:1-5.

READ JOB 40:6-8: This is Job’s sin.

Now God goes on to describe his majesty over all of nature, animal kingdom.

READ JOB 41:10-11: Everything belongs to me.

READ JOB 41:34: He looks down on all the proud.

Look at what Job has learned:

READ JOB 42:1-2.

Picture here is God's sovereignty and majesty.

He is not only good all the time, he is in control all the time.

"Even at times like... when I am sick...Even when I have lost my job...Even when my life is a disaster..."

God is never shocked, God is never surprised. God is never out of control. And furthermore, God never feels obligated to explain Himself.

No escape hatch! He is sovereign and He doesn't need to explain Himself, nor should He feel obligated to!

1915 to 1917 – Barnhouse student at Princeton Seminary. Pastored in Philadelphia for 33 years. Barnhouse preached for chapel 12 years later.

Wilson: "Only come once to hear my boys preach. Want to see if they are big Godders or little Godders. Some men have only a little God and they are always in trouble with Him. He can't do the miraculous, He can't take care of life's details, He doesn't intervene on behalf of His people. They have a little God and so I call them 'little Godders'.

Then there are those who have a great and mighty God. He speaks and it is done. He commands and it stands fast. He knows how to show Himself strong on behalf of those who fear Him.

You, Donald, have a great God and He will bless your ministry."

How big is your God? Big enough to intervene, big enough to be held in awe and ultimate respect and trust? Big enough to turn your worries into fodder so He can put it all in perspective? Little Godder or big Godder?

When God is too small our problems are magnified and we retreat in fear and insecurity.

When God becomes great in our minds our problems pale to insignificance and we stand in awe and we worship the king.

Look at Job's response.

READ JOB 42:3-6.

Some of us have gotten too big for our britches. Big God.

SLIDE #23: Seeds of God's nature sown in Job, blossom forth in the fruit of Jesus Christ. See this next week

SLIDE #24: Sometimes we have to stop complaining and justifying ourselves long enough to be able to listen to reason—and conviction.

SLIDE #25: God disciplines us to turn us from the error of our ways.

SLIDE #26: Beware of saying, "I know more than God.

SLIDE #27: God is sovereign. He is not only good all the time, he is in control all the time.

SLIDE #28: God is big enough to run the entire universe(s), yet small enough to be involved in our lives.

Prayer – words used for Him are many.

Transcendent, omnipotent, inscrutable, incomprehensible, magnificent, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent, holy, just, good, gracious – don't forget, mysterious, self-sustaining.

He doesn't come to our rescue because He needs us, but because we need Him. He doesn't speak because He needs to be heard. He speaks because He knows without His Word we are lost in a morass of trouble and misery and worry.

If you've never met Christ, you need to understand that that's essential if you wish to know a God this size. Jesus: "I am the way... no one... but me." He is the only road to take to God. It's one way. His way.