

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

The most beautiful picture of God in the Bible may very well be found in Job 36:16. What does “wooing” look like?

REVIEW

Remember that Job was involved in the cosmic struggle between God and Satan—between good and evil. Job suffered terribly.

Three friends arrived with plans to comfort him. First, they didn’t recognize him, which tells us something of 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) in three philosophical cycles they explain with condemnation that Job’s plight is entirely his fault. Let me summarize their arguments and Job’s responses in those chapters.

Eliphaz: “You are suffering because you sinned.”

Job: “Take back your false accusations. I have done nothing wrong.”

Bildad: “You won’t admit you sinned, so God is sending more suffering.”

Job: “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.”

Zophar: “Your sin is so bad you even deserve more suffering than this.”

Job: “I know I will be justified, God has made a mistake.”

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

How to respond to criticism:

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 examine the criticism to see if it is true.

If so, make the appropriate changes.

If not, ignore the criticism and go on.

ELIHU’S SPEECH

Elihu was a young bystander who silently watched the proceedings. He will speak next—for 6 chapters.

He was angry at the friends and with Job: “Elihu is very angry with Job for justifying himself rather than God.”

He was the only one of the four friends who was not later disciplined by God. Why? I believe it was because he and he alone identified Job’s sin and so convincingly convicted Job that when he finished his speech, Job was speechless—under conviction—prepared now to listen to God—and then God began to speak.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ELIHU’S SPEECH

Many Years Don't Necessarily Make Us Wise. We Can Learn A Lot From The Young (Job 32:6-10).

Elihu Charged Job With The Sin Of Presumption And Arrogance: Job Dared To Think That He Knew More Than God (Job 33:8-12).

God Is Not Silent. He Has Provided A Mediating Angel Whose One Job Is To Restore Us To The Ways Of Righteousness (JOB 33:13-30).

Elihu covered 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).

The Real God Is The One Who Will Both Tremble Us And Thrill Us (Job 36-37).

The picture here is of God's sovereignty and majesty.

The Seeds of understanding the true nature of God which are sown in the Book of Job, blossom forth in the person of Jesus Christ.

How big is your God?

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

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

SOME LESSONS TO TAKE HOME

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

God disciplines us to turn us from the error of our ways.

Beware of saying, "I know more than God."

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

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