

**JOB SERIES THIRTEEN**  
**WHY BE A LIE WHEN YOU CAN BE A BUTTERFLY?**  
**DR. ROGER BARRIER**  
**JOB 38:1-42:6; ISAIAH 55:8-9**  
**(SERMON 1595)**

It's hard to cultivate a humble heart in a contentious age. Put another way, a repentant spirit is rarely found in a litigious society. How rarely do we hear the words, "I'm wrong. I am sorry." And opposed to that how often we hear the words, "I'll sue you. I will take you to court."

A Charlotte, North Carolina lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars. He then insured them against fire, among other things. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these 24 cigars, and without yet having made even his first payment on the premium policy, the lawyer filed a claim against his insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated, "the cigars were lost in a series of small fires."

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion.

The lawyer sued and won. In delivering the ruling the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated, nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire without defining what is considered to be unacceptable fire and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure a lengthy and costly appeals process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the rare cigars lost in the fires.

Now, for the best part. After the lawyer had cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of arson. With his insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

How difficult to develop a humble heart in a society like ours.

Today I want to overview over four chapters in the Book of Job. If we split these verses up over multiple sermons we will miss the impact of the message.

*If you are new to Casas please feel free to obtain tapes or CDs of previous sermons on Job at the "Shepherd's Heart Ministry" table on the Plaza immediately after this service. Nevertheless, even if you have missed all the previous sermons, I think that you will find that each message is designed to be complete in itself in communicating Biblical truth from this passage.*

- Let's Begin with the End of our text.

READ JOB 42:1-6.

If I put this passage in today's vernacular, Job is saying, "I surrender!" or, "It's about time I changed my tune".

This experience is not just for Job. We are all in Job's shoes. Every one of us stands here—kneels here—falls on our faces before God here.

- Let's See How Job Got Here. Remember Job's discussions with his four friends.

■SLIDE #1: Eliphaz: "You are suffering because you sinned."

**SLIDE #2:** “Take back your false accusations. I have done nothing wrong.”

**SLIDE #3:** Bildad: “You won’t admit you sinned, so God is sending more suffering.”

**SLIDE #4:** “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.”

**SLIDE #5:** Zophar: “Your sin is so bad you even deserve more suffering than this.”

**SLIDE #6:** “I will be justified, God has made a mistake.” (Mistake?)

**SLIDE #7:** JOB 32:11: So these three men stopped answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.”

Elihu begins God’s speech.

**SLIDE #8:** [pix from my bible] READ 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.

**SLIDE #9:** ●Job 38:1-3: God speaks out of the storm! If In today’s vernacular, God is saying something like this: “Just Who Do You Think You Are!?!—telling others I made a mistake!!”

READ JOB 38:2: Who is this?

Now understand there’s not a whole group of people standing there. It’s just Job and God. So “Who?” has a pretty simple answer?

**SLIDE #10:**

READ JOB 38:3

Seventy-seven unanswerable questions follow designed to humble Job and bring him to his knees.

Put yourself in Job’s shoes. Most of us can’t answer these questions either.

**SLIDE #11:** He begins with the creation. Takes him to telescope. Goes back 13.7 billion years to the moment of creation. [all galaxies] READ JOB 38:4-7.

Continues in rapid fire succession.

**SLIDE #12:** Can you explain what is in the depths of the Seas? No.

**SLIDE #13:** Can you explain the Dawn? No.

**SLIDE #14:** Can you explain the Gates of Death? No.

**SLIDE #15:** Can you explain the Expanse of earth? No.

You know what happens when you are asked questions like this? You get silent. You get even more silent.

**SLIDE #16:** Snow? No

**SLIDE #17:** Hail? No

**SLIDE #18:** Lightning? No

**SLIDE #19:** East Wind? No

**SLIDE #20:** Rain? No

**SLIDE #21:** Ice and frost come from? No

Stunned silence. In class, professor is way over your head. Way ahead of you.

■ SLIDE #22: Pleiades (seven sisters) constellations bear...

■ SLIDE #23: Orion Nebula and Belt

■ SLIDE #24: Trapezium and four stars less than 2 million years old

Suddenly, the boils don't seem quite as significant.

READ JOB 38:33: Do you know the Laws of the heavens.

OVERHEAD OF SPECIAL RELATIVITY AND  $E=mc^2$

Who? How? Can you? Do you? Are you?

■ SLIDE #25: Then goes to animal kingdom.

■ SLIDE #26: You get food for lions

■ SLIDE #27: Goats and deer give birth?

■ SLIDE #28: Ostrich (God's jokes), leaves eggs to chance. Why are they like that? Verse 17 – Because God has made her forget wisdom. (Ostrich is picture of Job).

■ SLIDE #29: Eagle: "stretch wings towards south" may refer to the migratory instinct of birds.

PAUSE.

■ SLIDE #30: God is getting Job's attention. "The Lord said to Job:" READ JOB 40:1-2.

● READ Job 40:3-5: Humbled and broken, Job responds.

"I am unworthy." The Hebrew means, "Light in weight." "I'm a lightweight." That's appropriate in the light of all that God has shown him. This is a statement of humility.

"Lord, I put my hand on my mouth, I have nothing more to say." This is a Hebrew colloquialism which means, "I've already said more than I should!" This is a statement of surrender.

"How can I reply to you?" Job didn't need to have the answers. God has the answers. This is a statement of relief.

● God gets his attention again. READ Job 40:6-14.

Obviously Job has to say, "No, I can't do that.

■ SLIDE #31: What's going on here: ISAIAH 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Get out of your mind the idea that God is a lot like us, just a whole lot older. God understands like we understand, He's just been at it longer. He's not an old man with long white hair.

He is totally and completely and absolutely different from us. Therefore His ways are full of shocks and surprises.

● Job 40:15-41:34: God gives Job two more illustrations.

■ SLIDE #32: READ JOB 40:15 – Circle “behemoth” This is a hippopotamus.

He’s strong and powerful – not afraid of a raging river.

40:24 – Can you capture the hippo? Pierce his nose? It was believed in ancient days that the way to kill a hippo was to plug up his nose so he couldn’t breathe and when he opened his mouth to breathe you pushed the javelin down his throat to kill it. This was tough.

Point: “Job. You’re no match against this hippo. If I am strong enough to create this creature, then I am worthy of your submission and worship.”

Before Job can digest this, God goes on to Leviathan.

■ SLIDE #33: READ JOB 41:1 – Circle “Leviathan” Leviathan is a crocodile.

Will he be gentle with you? Speak soft words to you?

Will you play with him like a parakeet for your daughters?

The point is, both of these beasts do precisely as God created them to do and since Job can’t understand or control them he is obviously not on God’s level. He is not deity.

■ SLIDE #34: ● READ JOB 41:10-11 – “Everything Under Heaven Is Mine!”

Today we know the science behind many of these questions unknown to Job. But this knowledge in no way puts us up to the level of God. If you read these passages carefully, you will discover that the issue is not only can you explain my creation.

The issue is, “Can you control my creation?” For example, “You can’t even make it rain. How can you ever control the planets?”

Job says, “God has made a mistake. I will tell him what has gone wrong and what to fix.”

But that is not what happens here. God doesn’t explain; He explodes. He asks Job who he thinks he is, anyway. Trying to explain things to Job is like trying to explain Einstein to a clam.

“Why are you treating me so unfairly, God?” Job has whined throughout the book. “God, put yourself in my place...”

“NO! NO!” God thunders in reply. “You put yourself in my place. Until you can offer lessons on how to make the sun come up each day, or where to scatter lightning bolts, or how to design a hippopotamus, don’t judge how I run the world.” Until you know a little more about running the physical universe, don’t tell me how to run the moral universe.

■ SLIDE #35: God has gotten Job’s attention.

● Job 42:1-6: Finally, Job Waves The Flag Of Surrender And Says, “I Back Away, I Retreat, I Repent. Lord, My Heart Is Yours And I Place Myself At Your Disposal.”

READ JOB 42:1-4.

Finally, It Dawns On Job That God’s Plans Are Profound. His Reasoning Is Right. His Ways Are Higher Than We Can Understand.

READ JOB 42:5-6.

Repent means, “I need to go an entirely new way.”

Job finally saw himself from God's perspective.

■ SLIDE #36: ●Are You A Line Or Are You A Butterfly?

It is like, the best we can do is Linear thinking. God is working Multi-dimensional.

■ SLIDE #37: Let me show you the diagram that spawned the God's Grand Design of the universe. Biologist studying fish populations. Factored in equations for different environmental scenarios to predict future fish population in lakes (birthrates, temperature changes, weather patterns, predators, and incubation periods. Graph looked like this. At each cycle it got more complex.

■ SLIDE #38: After 4 cycles it moved into chaos. Decided you cannot predict what will happen. Named it Chaos. Named it too soon. Looked deeper and discovered a grand design.

■ SLIDE #39: Change perspective and add a dimension and the same equation looked like a butterfly.

■ SLIDE #40: Put some color to it. Do you want to be a line or a butterfly? Job was a line. God wanted a butterfly.

■ SLIDE #41: (seahorse) Every organism, every facet of the universe, every life form has an equation with its design already built in.

■ SLIDE #42: Every one of us has a rather simple equation to our lives. It is a rather linear. We can make squares. By the way, these are fractals. They all look alike. Just keep adding fractals.

■ SLIDE #43: Add those fractals at different angles. We can make little cubes, but no matter how many fractals we add, the best we can do is make a box. This is a long way from a butterfly.

Keep adding fractals to our lives—nothing changes. We continue to look like what we always looked like. This is our old nature. Our sin nature.

■ SLIDE #44: If we don't change the equation, just like cloning ourselves. Dolly died early on Friday. Clone Dolly: looks like us but just degenerates over time.

We don't need to add a few variables to our lives; we need a whole new equation—one with exponents in it.

■ SLIDE #45: Line to Butterfly.

This is what happens when we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ.

■ SLIDE #46: From *L-form chirography* to *D-form chirography*

L-Form Chirography is every chemical reaction to explain all of life—encoded in DNA.

Temporal lobe deals with morality. Problems here produce tendency to be criminals.

Become Xns renewing of the mind: Behavior and patterns change only by changes in brain structure. Brain chemistry and structure changes. Come to X and brain changes; Xnty can't be faked. Men can't imitate the real thing.

Change has to occur somewhere.

D-Form Chirography: can't explain, know it exists. It is the unexplained, best seen by what it is not.

Theory, God induced changes in the equations of our lives.

*The God Spot* Puts this in novel form for easy understanding.

OVERHEAD: Door of Salvation.

Swindolls used to know a wonderful family made up of mom and dad and three sons. The oldest son was greatly gifted intellectually and musically and was a splendid violinist.

Early in the boy's high school years the father had some trouble with the boy's submission. Gave the boy some room. Time for college and the boy decided to attend a renowned university on the west coast. The dad paid the full tuition and the boy went off to college. First chair in the orchestra. But, while he was there he got with a tough crowd and he picked up a surly, independent spirit.

He returned home for the summer. Mom and Dad realized they had a real hellion on their hands. He's bright, gifted, also stubborn, arrogant, and conceited. Mom and Dad also noticed that he was controlling the younger brothers in the family.

They took it as long as they could. The young man did not want to cooperate.

**SLIDE #47:** So one day Dad said to the boy, "Come here to me. I want you to know that we are through adjusting our family to you and to your ways. I want you to leave this house and not return until you are ready to submit to our leadership and to the harmony of this family. Do you understand that?"

"By the way, since I own everything you have, you leave everything here. The clothing in your closet, I bought, leave it. The money in your pocket, put it on the bureau, leave it. The violin is mine. Leave the violin. I want you to walk out that door. Oh, by the way. The car – it's mine. Leave it in the garage.

"We've tried every other way to convince you that we mean business. Our love for you will never end. But this kind of nonsense is over. Don't come back until you are ready to submit and to be a member of this family. Your brothers are afraid of you but I want you to know that your mother and I are not. Now, get out."

The boy emptied his pockets, walked out the door, took a left, and went three blocks. It's amazing what he learned between his front door and three blocks away. It was about nightfall and he realized he was now on the street, had no marketable skills, no education to speak of. Couldn't even play his violin to make a little money, and turned around and came back.

Knock-knock-knock-knock.

Father opened the door and boy began to say, "I'm sorry." Dad hugged him. Had a talk that evening, late into the night as Dad explained why such an extreme decision had to be made for him to come to an end of himself.

The boy came back with a contrite heart, no demands, no arrogance, just surrender – and somewhere out there he left his pride—and got a new equation.

Prayer.

I don't know who's shaking your shoulders – someone probably is. View it as God.

If you don't know Christ, got to make first move of submission. Come to Christ.