

JOB SERIES THIRTEEN
WHY BE A LIME WHEN YOU CAN BE A BUTTERFLY?
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JOB 38:1-42:6; ISAIAH 55:8-9
(SERMON 1595)

It's hard to cultivate a humble heart in a contentious age. Let's put it another way: a repentant spirit is rarely found in a litigious society. How rarely today do we hear the words, "I'm wrong. I am sorry." All too often we hear the words: "I'll sue you. I will take you to court."

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. Don't miss this; we are all in Job's shoes.

If you are new to Casas please feel free to obtain tapes or CDs of previous sermons on Job to catch up. The resources are available 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. Job 42:1-6 Reveals An Emotionally, Mentally And Spiritually Broken and Humbled Man.

Job has come to a full assessment of himself before God. If I put this passage in today's vernacular, Job is saying, "I need to go in another direction," or, "It's about time I changed my tune".

It is noteworthy that God has not yet removed the boils. God has not yet restored the children. Job is still bankrupt, in pain, and undergoing suffering, right up to this point – and it's all by design. God will stop at nothing to bring us to the place of full repentance.

This experience is not just for Job. Every one of us needs to stand here—to kneel here—to fall on our faces before God here.

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

Job's responses to his first three friends may be summarized as follows:

"Take back your false accusations. I have done nothing wrong."

"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."

"I know I will be justified, God has made a mistake."

At this point the three friends gave up because Job "was righteous in his own eyes."

Then Elihu began God's speech. Then in Job 38:1 God spoke.

- Job 38:1-3: "Just Who Do You Think You Are!?"

God begins by "shaking his shoulders."

Seventy-seven unanswerable questions follow.

- Job 38:4-39:30: God Moves from the Creation, To the Stellar Spaces, To the Deepest Seas. He Moves Into The Animal Kingdom Asking Job Question After Question About The Wonders Of The Creation Until Job Is Left Silent.

Put yourself in Job's shoes.

Suddenly, the boils don't seem quite as significant. Suddenly Job's dogmatic little conclusions don't flow with such eloquence.

- Job 40:1-2: God Shakes Job's Shoulders Again.

- 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.

- Job 40:6-14: God shakes his shoulders again.

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. Forget the idea that God understands like we understand, He's just been at it longer. 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 to show Job how little he understands and how little he can control.

Chapter 40 is about the hippopotamus and chapter 41 is about the crocodile. 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.

- 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, "Can you make it rain?"

Job says, "God owes me an audience. Look at my condition. It is the least he can do"

Again God gives Job a shaking. "No, Job, you don't dictate to me. You're mine! You are clay in my hands. I am doing a wonderful work. Trust me in the mystery of it all."

- Job 42:1-6: Finally, It Dawns on Job What the Lord Is Saying. His Plan Is Profound. His Reasoning Is Right. His Ways Are Higher Than We Can Understand. 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."

(By the way, God never in this book revealed to Job about His deal with Satan. He leaves Job in the mystery of it. Job simply acknowledges his inability to understand why.)

Job finally saw himself from God's perspective.

This is what Job realized. This is where we need to begin.

- Why Be A Line When We Can Be A Butterfly?

We don't need to add a few variables to our lives; we need a whole new equation.

From Lines to design

From fractals to clones

From *L-form chirography* to *D-form chirography*

Life is all about our God. We live differently when we focus on the fact that life is all about our God.

As God works His way and will through us, it is delightful how He infuses new meaning and fulfillment to all of life.