

“God Exacteth of Thee Less than Thine Iniquity Deserveth

Job 11:1-20

This is Zophar’s first discourse with Job. More than likely, the other two were older, and Zophar waited, out of respect, for them to go first. Zophar was not giving anything that the other two hadn’t already said. He considered Job to be a hypocrite and a liar and was very short and dogmatic with his response to Job.

As was the case in the past discourses, what Zophar said is true, biblically speaking – it just wasn’t true of Job. We find in this chapter some great spiritual truths that will help us understand about the forgiveness and mercy of God.

The phrase taken from the text for this message is found in verse 6, and is one of the most important verses in the Bible in dealing with the mercy of God – that truth is that we get far less than we deserve from our sin, no matter how good we are in our life.

In this chapter we find some truths about sin and forgiveness:

I. NO ONE IS SINLESS – VS. 1-6

A. In the first few verses Zophar is telling Job that no matter what he said about himself, and about how righteous he was, and how much he talked about how good he was, it didn’t make him pure.

B. Zophar took offense to Job in what he said about himself, and what he said to God (and to Eliphaz and Bildad) in

response to the other two's discourses – vs. 3.

C. It's because of this offense that Zophar went off in a tirade against Job – and in the process he gave some great truths about God.

D. In verses 4-6 we find that great truth about mercy – not getting what we deserve.

1. This point begins in verse 4 with a great truth about the wisdom of God – and it is given in classic Hebrew poetry – whatever is known of wisdom on earth, all of it taken together, as seen as not even being half of what God knows. In other words, there is no human ability, no created ability, to ever know what God knows.

The sense is this, "you now think yourself pure and holy. You have confidence in your own wisdom and integrity. But this apprehension is based on a short-sighted view of God, and on ignorance of him. If he would speak and show you his wisdom; if he would express his sense of what purity is, you would at once see how far you have come from perfection, and would be overwhelmed with a sense of your comparative vileness and sin." (Albert Barnes)

2. To Zophar, Job was a great sinner, and he was convinced that Job was blind to this truth, so he tells him that not only was he a sinner, but that he deserved more than he had already received.

Ezra 9:13-14

13 And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this;

14 Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?

Psalm 103:10

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Psalm 106:43-46

43 Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity.

44 Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:

45 And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.

46 He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.

Lamentations 3:22

22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

3. Considering what Job had gone through already, the magnitude of the mercy of God as given here by Zophar was even greater.

II. NO ONE CAN HIDE THEIR SIN FROM GOD – VS. 7-12

- A. Again, there are some great things said here about God, and how much greater He is than mankind.**
- B. What is in view here is not just the knowledge of God, and His greatness, but the vastness of God – the omnipresence of God – the fact that no one can hide from that knowledge and greatness.**
- C. Verses 7-9 – these are questions and statements simply pointing to the greatness and vastness of the knowledge of God. It isn't saying that if we search for Him that we can't find Him, for that would contradict other Scripture. What it is saying is that when, in our ignorance of Who God is, we try and hide our sin from him, that there is no place we can go to escape God.**

Psalm 145:3

³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

¹¹ He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

Isaiah 40:28

²⁸ Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his

understanding.

Romans 11:33

³³ O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

D. Verse 10 shows us again (as has been seen already in the book of Job) that God can do what He wants with what is His, for after all, He created it.

Job 9:12

¹² Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?

Daniel 4:35

³⁵ And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

E. Verses 11-12 point out how foolish it is to try and hide from the omnipresent God, yet, it shows, how "vain man" attempts to do just that.

Jeremiah 17:10

¹⁰ I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Hebrews 4:13

¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Revelation 2:23

²³ **And I will kill her children with death; and all**

the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Romans 1:22

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

1 Corinthians 3:18–20

¹⁸ Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

²⁰ And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

III. EVERYONE NEEDS FORGIVENESS FOR THEIR SIN – vs. 13-20

A. The first thing needed, as given here, and elsewhere in Scripture, is a "prepared heart" – vs. 13.

Romans 10:9–10

⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

B. The next step is to repent of sin and forsake it – vs. 14.

Ezekiel 18:30–31

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord

GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

³¹ Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Acts 20:21

²¹ Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

James 4:8

⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

C. Then, once sin is dealt with and we have prepared our heart in faith toward Christ, then we can be confident that our sins are forgiven, and our soul is secured in Christ – vs. 15-19.

1. Before God, we are presented as clothed in Christ's righteousness, and we are spotless – vs. 15.

Ephesians 5:27

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

2. Our lives will be changed – vs. 16-17

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

3. Our hope will be secured – vs. 18

Ephesians 1:13–14

¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Romans 5:3–5

³ And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

⁵ And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

4. We will dwell in safety and will never need fear what will happen to us – vs. 19

Proverbs 3:24–26

²⁴ When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

²⁵ Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

²⁶ For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Conclusion: What a wonderful thing to know that there is a merciful and gracious God that loves us and cares for us!!!