

“Be Ye Afraid”

Job 19:1-29

Text for message is in verse 29.

We find Job here beginning to show the self-righteous attitude for which he was later condemned by God. Up to this point he was aware of his trial being allowed by God, but he seemed to be careful to not blame Him for it. Here, however, we find, in his response to his friends, and more than likely in his anger towards them, lashes out at God – most noticeably found in verse 7 where he says that he was wronged by God. Although he wasn't guilty of what he was accused of by his friends, he was certainly guilty here. However, what he relates to us about God, and even our trials we go through, can greatly help us deal with them. We may not understand them fully, but if we understand that God allowed them for His glory and our greater good (Rom. 8:28) then we can at least have peace to know He's in control.

Even though Job may have been wrong in some of what he said here, he does show us that he trusted completely in the Lord. He knew that even if he died, that his eternal destination was settled.

That being said, this was still a response to Bildad, and the most immediate thing Job was dealing with was Bildad, and his other friends. He tells them that they need to be afraid for themselves:

I. IF GOD ALLOWED THIS TO HAPPEN TO ME, HE CAN DO THE SAME TO YOU – VS. 1-12

A. In the first three verses Job is pointing out that if he had sinned that he would

be held accountable for it – it wasn't their job to condemn him – it was God's.

Romans 14:12

¹² So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

B. He shows them (vs. 5-6) that it would do them no good to make themselves look better than he, for God had already shown Job to be "an upright man," and compared to God, even they (his friends) didn't compare.

C. In the next several verses – 7-12 – Job is pointing out how he knew that it was God that had allowed this to happen to him, and in fact, he is showing that, to him at least, it was God that had done this to him.

D. With all that said, the last verse of the chapter comes to light – "be ye afraid" – Job's friends needed to take heed to what had happened to him lest it happen to them as well, for if God would do it to a righteous man such as Job, then what made them think that He wouldn't do it to them?

II. IF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS ABANDONED ME IN MY GREATEST TIME OF NEED, THE SAME CAN HAPPEN TO YOU – VS. 13-19

A. Job says that God had made him so distant and had put so many problems on him that those closest to him had left – vs. 13-14.

B. His employees abandoned him – vs. 15-16.

C. His calamity, including the physical trauma he had endured, had such an impact on him that even his wife couldn't bear to be near him – vs. 17.

1. The word for “breath” is not always referencing the air coming out of our mouth, but it also can mean, and most likely does here, the words that we speak.
2. It seems that Job's wife was so distraught over the loss of her children and the loss of her husband's physical abilities, that she abandoned him, and wouldn't listen to him even when he tried to comfort her regarding the children.
3. This is one of the saddest verses in the book of Job – that his wife (probably the only one he had, remarkable in that it was a time of polygamy, even in God's own people) could not stand to be with him in this time of trouble.

D. Even the children didn't want anything to do with him – vs. 18.

E. His closest friends abandoned him and had even turned against him (more than likely a reference to those that were there) – vs. 19.

1. This is also a very sad verse – a very sad

commentary on Job's life.

2. It also is a caution for us today to not be that kind of friend. If we have a close friend, a close confidant, one who we seek counsel and help from, we should never turn on them, even if they have sinned so egregiously that God chastises them – that's when they need us the most.

Psalm 55:12–14

¹² For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

¹³ But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.

¹⁴ We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

F. All these things happened to Jesus as well, especially while He was on the cross.

Isaiah 53:3

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Psalm 22:6–8

⁶ But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

⁷ All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

⁸ He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

G. How lonely Job must have felt – and he was saying to his friends to be afraid, lest the same thing happen to them.

III. IF YOU DON'T REALIZE YOU ARE WRONG, JUDGMENT WILL COME UPON YOU – VS. 20-29

A. Job was barely alive, with his skin hanging off his bones – vs. 20.

B. He was begging for pity, for sympathy, for someone to care – vs. 21.

C. But none came – and he felt as persecuted by his friends as he was by God – vs. 22.

D. He then simply laments about his trial and shows his weariness – vs. 23-24.

E. And it is then, in his deepest despair, that Job understands one of the greatest truths in the Bible, one of the greatest truths for the believer, and one of the most important truths for an unbeliever – that God will always be there, and no matter what happens here, we can (and for the saved, we will) be in His physical presence for eternity. Job didn't give up on God for he knew that God wouldn't give up on him but would reward him with eternal life in heaven – no matter what happened to him on earth – vs. 25-27.

F. Verses 28-29 are very unique verses to this context – Job says to Bildad (and his other friends) that instead of condemning him they "should say" that the "root of the matter" was found in them – the root of their condemnation was within them, in their own sin ("the

pot calling the kettle black," so to speak), and that they should be afraid and repent lest judgment come upon them.

Conclusion: What about us? Are we so critical of others in their time of need that we are in the same shape as Job's friends? Or are we like those that abandoned him? What a shame it would be if we, as God's children, would treat someone (especially someone we considered family or friend) like Job's friends treated him in their greatest time of need!! God help us if that we do!!