

JOB

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Job chapter 21 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As you remember from our previous studies, God has brought some tremendous trials upon Job's life to test his faith. On the other end is Satan and he is going to try and use those trials as a temptation for Job to sin. And in the midst of all this, Job has to deal with his three friends who are suppose to comfort him but instead are judging him and are very brutal in what they are saying.

We are getting ready for round three you might say of this fight. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar have all put in their two cents worth and now Job is going to try to defend himself against what Zophar just finished saying back in Job chapter 20. It is after this that we enter round three of this fight as Eliphaz will once again come against Job. So with that said, let's begin reading in Job chapter 21, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

JOB**VERSES 1-3**

1. Do you get the idea that Job has had it with these guys? It is hard to imagine all that he was going through and then his friends are saying that he is a sinner and he needs to stop lying and repent. That is not comfort and thus, Job is going to say what is on his heart and then they can go and mock him some more if they want. Again, I think he has had it and he is just a little sarcastic here. Notice what he is saying, “Let my words comfort you!” Please understand that was not in a nice way. You see, he was basically saying, “If your speech to me was suppose to comfort me, then mine will do the same for you.”

2. As Christians, we need to be careful here. It is easy to let people push our buttons and then respond in an unchristian way. We are not to let others dictate on how we respond but we are to let the Holy Spirit led us in all that we do and say. Paul reminds us in Colossians 4:5-6, **“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”** In other words, if we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh! “Lord, help us to walk accordingly!”

VERSES 4-16

1. Job must have looked awful. In fact it seems that these guys had a hard time even looking at Job. Thus, Job calls for them to take a good look at him, even though his appearance was shocking to those who saw him. And I want you to notice that Job's real problem is not with man, but with God, that is where his crisis or conflict was at. It was a spiritual battle you might say and not just a medical crisis, not just an economic crisis or social crisis or even a family crisis! And thus, in the midst of all this Job is wondering where God is at!

2. I think that is something we need to think about. Our problem is not necessarily with our health, our job, our family or whatever. It is a spiritual battle that manifests itself in the physical world. And when we have our eyes focused on the physical world instead of the Lord, we many times wonder where God is in all of this. We wonder why this is happening to us. And then we come to some faulty conclusions about life as Job has done!

3. Notice what Job does here. Remember how his friends told Job that the wicked die young, their life is a mess and Job is coming against this by showing them how things are in the real world and not just in their poor theology. I don't know if you remember the Billy Joel song, "Only the good die young" but there really are none that are good, not one. Not because I have said it, but God has. And the so-called good die young and so do the bad.

And notice what Job is saying here about the wicked, what he sees in the real world compared to what his friends have said. The wicked don't die young, they are profitable, they are powerful, they have many healthy children, their homes are safe, their livestock breed and are healthy, they party and have a good time.

Now, just as Zophar went to one extreme saying that the wicked are always punished, Job goes to the other extreme and says that the wicked are always blessed. Not true. Psalm 37:35-36 says, **“I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree. Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.”** God is sovereign and He has a purpose for everything. We must be careful that when we speak we are not speaking out of our emotions or frustration but according to the Word of God.

Let me give you an example and you will see what I mean about speaking out of emotions or frustration. When people go through tough times you may hear them say or you may have said it yourself, “God doesn't love me!”

Now that is not true. How do I know that is not true? Because in Ephesians 3:17-19 Paul tells us, **“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height; to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”**

And in Romans 5:8 we read, **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** Let the Word of God be your guide and not just your emotions or your experience or your frustration.

4. Now here in verse 13 it seems that Job is comparing his miserable life to the wicked and it just does not compare. He is basically saying that his life seems to linger on in pain while the wicked not only live long lives but when they die, they go quickly! Again, that is not true and yet Job is feeling that way!

As one writer put it, “Job was disturbed by the apparent injustice of it all. As noted the Book of Job does not deal with the matter of final future judgment that would set right the tables of justice. Such revelation will come later. Job, therefore, felt that immediate punishment for the wicked would be the only just procedure; but he found just the opposite in life.” (Smick).

5. Job then is perplexed by all this. He sees the wicked mock God, ignore God; they don’t want to have anything to do with God. In fact, they feel, “Why do I even need God when I have everything that I want right here and now?” That may be true, they may have a lot now but that void in their heart will not be filled by anything but the Lord. And in the end, as much as they thought they did not need God, they will find out how wrong they really are when they stand before Him in their own filthy righteousness!

Clarke sums it up for us as he wrote, “This is the language of their *conduct*, though not directly of their *lips*. . . . Let us alone; we do not trouble thee. Thy ways are painful; we do not like cross-bearing. Thy ways are spiritual; we wish to live after the flesh. We have learned to do our own will; we do not wish to study thine.” And like I have said, they will one day regret what they are saying and hopefully before they die they repent and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of their lives!

VERSES 17-21

1. We see Job asking this rhetorical question, “**How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? How often does their destruction come upon them, The sorrows God distributes in His anger?**” Job 21:17. And Job would answer, “Not often enough!” And for God to punish the children of the wicked, that would not bring Job any satisfaction and it would not be right.

You see, Job’s friends were blaming Job and his hidden sin for the death of his children and Job is saying what good does that do for the wicked man. In other words, punish the wicked man and not his children. And God does just that. He does not punish the children for the sins of their father nor does He punish the father for the sins of the children! He holds each person accountable for their actions. We see this spoken of in Ezekiel 18:20 where we read, “**The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.**” May we understand that!

VERSES 22-26

1. Now here’s the thing. Job understood that God can’t learn anything because He knows everything! If you think God can learn, then your God is too small! And this is where Job was struggling. If He knows everything, and He does, then why does there seem to be no difference between the death of a righteous man and the death of a wicked man. As Ecclesiastes 2:14 says, “**The wise man's eyes are in his head, But the fool walks in darkness. Yet I myself perceived That the same event happens to them all.**”

Poole picks up on this and tells us, “All these worldly differences are ended by death, and they lie in the grave without any distinction . . . So that no man can tell who is good, and who is bad, by any events which befall them in this life.”

Is that true? Yes and no. And no that is not a copout or the easy way out of answering this question. We are all going to die, the righteous and the wicked and when I say righteous I am speaking of those who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior and His righteousness, not ours flows in us and through us. But there is a difference. We have a hope that this is not the end, we will be moving on to be with the Lord. So maybe from outward appearances, the things that happen to the righteous and the wicked may not seem different, in the end there is a big difference! But the bottom line is this, the rich and poor, the righteous and the wicked both end up in the same place, the grave!

VERSES 27-34

1. As Job looks at life he knows that even in death the wicked are honored, they make him a hero. Does that not speak of our society today? The wicked tend to be exalted by man and made into heroes. Movies are made to exalt the publisher of that pornographic magazine, Hustler. Rock stars who died of a drug overdose have been made into hero's, like Janis Joplin and Jimmy Hendricks's. Look at Michael Jackson and the lifestyle he was living, and yet, in his death he was made a hero! Even those that are still living and are doing wicked things are made into hero's, like Lady GaGa, Madonna, and others. You see, they look at the outward actions and lift them up because of it, and yet we should be looking at the inward quality of the person which is then manifested in outward actions. We are a society that calls good, evil and evil, good!

2. And Job is calling for them to ask the people and let them tell you what they have seen and they will tell you that what I have said is right. Now keep in mind that both Job and his friends are trying to understand the ways of God, and how can we fully understand the ways of God with our finite minds? We can't and that is the problem. For Job's friends, these were theological issues and they sure loved to discuss them. But for Job, this was not just some theological issue it was a life and death question! And yes, Job knew that the wicked would ultimately get punished but why not now? I think we all struggle with that from time to time but let me put this into perspective for you.

At one time you were wicked and God loved you, kept drawing Himself to you until one day you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior. God was so patient, so longsuffering and when it comes to others, we are ready for God to pour out His judgment upon them. May we love them into the Kingdom of God, pray for them, and pray that God would be longsuffering, merciful and patient with them as He was with us!

3. Job concludes by saying that the words they speak, and specifically Zophar here, are empty, they are futile, they are useless to him. You see, the words that Zophar and Job's friends have spoken to him were not comforting at all.

Now do you think that will stop these friends from speaking? Absolutely not and thus, we move into round three of this three round title fight as Eliphaz is going to put his two cents in!

JOB 22**VERSES 1-3**

1. Eliphaz just comes out swinging here. He is basically accusing Job of being arrogant. He is telling Job that you may think you are so big, so important to God, but your actions do not benefit God at all. You are not doing God a favor by being good. Mason puts this into perspective for us as he wrote, "Is he not simply arguing the case for the self-sufficiency of God? God needs nothing; God lacks nothing. Since God is already absolutely perfect, He did not create man out of any personal deficiency or compulsion, and therefore man cannot give anything to God. This is standard orthodox doctrine." God does not need us but we truly need Him!

2. Does that mean it doesn't matter what we do? Of course not and here is why. You see, God desires us to do good because it is what is best for our lives and we are blessed by it. But it doesn't add or take away from God at all. Yes our unrighteousness grieves God but it doesn't harm him. Jesus said in Luke 17:10, "**So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'**"

Now here is the problem for some today. They do think of themselves more highly than they should. They think they are profitable to God and without them, well, God would be in trouble. Folk's, if God was dependent upon us, then He would be in trouble, but He is not! Remember what James told us, "**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**" James 4:10. May we not forget that!

VERSES 4-11

1. Now we see Eliphaz lash out at Job. You see, he no longer believed that Job was a righteous man, a good man, a God fearing man! In other words, “Job, God is not bringing this upon you because you are good, but because you have done wrong, you are wicked!” Nice friend.

And then he lists all these allegations against Job, all the wickedness that he perpetrated upon others. But these are nothing more than groundless accusations against Job and they are wrong. How do I know that Eliphaz is wrong about Job? Because back in Job chapters 1 and 2 God spoke of Job being a God fearing man and that he did what was right.

But Eliphaz, looking at all that Job went through, came to the conclusion that Job had become wealthy by strong-arming the poor, by taking their clothes, by refusing to give them food and water. It is as Morgan wrote, “They were the most dastardly sins possible to a man of wealth and position: those of the spoliation of the poor, neglect of the starving, the oppression of the helpless.” And yet there was no truth to them in regards to Job! In fact, just the opposite was true.

VERSES 12-20

1. There was the belief that when clouds covered the earth you could do what you want because God, who is in heaven, can't see through them. Sorry, all things are open and naked before the Lord. But these guys were accusing Job of trying to get away with some kind of evil when God could not see his actions. Remember what Paul said in Hebrews 4:12-13, **“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”** You can't hide anything from the Lord!

2. Now Eliphaz takes Job back to the time of the flood and pointing out what God did do to the wicked, He swept them away with a flood. And thus, as they looked at Jobs life they saw this happening with Job. Not with a physical flood, but with various judgments that have come upon his life.

And understand this, the events in the book of Job were only some 300 years or so after the flood, so this was fresh in their minds. In fact, Genesis 9:28 we are told that Noah lived for another 350 years after the flood. Thus, Noah and his sons could have given first hand accounts of what took place; it was fresh in their minds!

Lawson sees it like this as he wrote, “Sarcastically, he asks Job if he plans to continue going in the wrong direction – along the path of the wicked. He says this same path that Job is now traveling led to the drowning of an entire generation in Noah’s day ‘by a river,’ a reference to the Flood.” That is what his friends were comforting Job with and thus, miserable comforters were they!

3. Now in verse 19 Eliphaz tells us, “**The righteous see it and are glad**” and his point is this. The righteous are glad to see the righteous judgment of God and the wicked are not. What is Eliphaz saying to Job? He is telling Job that because he is not happy to see the judgment of God, he must be wicked. Again, nice friend!

VERSES 21-30

1. When you think about this, Eliphaz had great advice for Job except for the fact it was not the sin of Job that brought this upon him. He assumed that the problem was some sin or a lot of sin in Job’s life and it was a wrong assumption and therefore it was the wrong advice that he was giving to Job!

You see, Eliphaz is telling Job once again to get right with God and you will be blessed. You will be restored. And he speaks of knowing God and then being at peace with Him. That is so true. You can never know the peace of God, be at peace with Him, unless you first know Him. Paul said in Romans 1:7, “**. . . Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**”

Before you can know the peace of God you must receive the grace of God into your life through His Son Jesus Christ. Paul put it this way in Romans 5:1-2, **“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”**

What a glorious promise to each of us, the peace of God that surpasses all understanding but is very real in our lives once we make peace *WITH* God through Jesus Christ! We might not understand it, but when we are going through a difficult time, we can feel it; we know the peace *OF* God in our lives!

And not only have we been declared justified before God, at peace with God through Jesus, but we also have access into His grace through Jesus, and again this is through faith. Paul says **“we have access”** which is in the perfect verb tense indicating this is a permanent possession. It is as Clarke said: “And this access to God, or introduction to the Divine presence, is to be considered a lasting privilege. We are not brought to God for the purpose of an interview, but to remain with him; to be his household; and by faith, to behold his face, and walk in the light of his countenance.”

In other words, we don't stand by our own strength but in the grace of God as Paul said in Ephesians 2:18, **“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”** And in Ephesians 3:12, Paul says, **“in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”** It is out of that we should see praise burst forth from our lives as our hope is not in us but in Him, which then brings glory to God and not to us! We stand in Him and not in our own strength, praise the Lord!

2. As I have said, the problem for Job was that he was innocent before God, and thus, the words of Eliphaz are empty. And Job is going to answer these words of Eliphaz in chapter 23. Now think about what Eliphaz has said and listen to what Morgan wrote, “Great and wonderful words are these. Had Eliphaz applied them to himself he would have found that his own imperfect acquaintance with God was the reason why he was not able to bring any real comfort to his suffering friend.” May we take the log out of our own eye before we try to remove the speck that is in our brother’s eye!

3. Now let’s see what Job has to say in response to the harsh counsel that Eliphaz gave to Job as we move into Job chapter 23.

JOB 23

VERSES 1-7

1. You can understand Job’s cry here. Job wants to meet God face-to-face so that he can plead his case before Him. You see, Job feels that if he could talk with God, plead his case before God, that he could be vindicated of all these things. Job surely felt separated from God and that does happen during trials in our life. We can feel distant from God, that He is not hearing us or answering us or helping us! That is what Job felt!

And because of all that came upon Job he not only lost of the perspective of the presence of God in his life, but he desired to find God once again. It is as Spurgeon wrote, “Good men are washed towards God even by the rough waves of their grief; and when their sorrows are deepest, their highest desire is not to escape from them, but to get at their God.”

Spurgeon continues on as he tells us, “In Job’s uttermost extremity he cried after the Lord. The longing desire of an afflicted child of God is once more to see his Father’s face. His first prayer is not, ‘Oh that I might be healed of the disease which now festers in every part of my body!’ nor even, ‘Oh that I might see my children restored from the jaws of the grave, and my property once more brought from the hand of the spoiler!’ but the first and uppermost cry is, ‘Oh that I knew where I might find HIM - who is my God! that I might come even to his seat!’”

So where did God go when we are in these trials? He did not go anywhere, He is with us always! How do I know that? Not because I feel that it is true, it may not even be that I see it is true, but I know it is true because God has told me it is true! Paul, in Hebrews 13:5-6 tells us, “**Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’**”

In other words, we need to get the right perspective of things or we will lose sight of the presence of God! You see, Paul in Hebrews chapter 13 quotes out of Deuteronomy 31:6 and the Lord tells us, **“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”** The way that this sentence is structured in the Greek speaks of this being impossible, Christ can never leave us, never depart from us, it just can't happen! Now who are you going to trust, the words of men or the Word of God?

VERSES 8-9

1. Here is the dilemma for Job. He is insisting that he had sought after God in the midst of this trial, he looked everywhere and he could not find God! First of all, God is Spirit and thus we can't see Him as we can see a man. Then how do we know that He is there? Because of what God's Word tells us, that is what we have to go by. That is where faith comes in and as Paul tells us, **“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”** Romans 10:17. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, not necessarily by seeing or feeling but by hearing and then applying those truths of God found in the Word of God to your life. May we not lose sight of that especially when we are going through difficult times!

VERSES 10-12

1. Yes Job couldn't find God but he knows God can find him. And here Job speaks one of those golden nuggets of faith, you see, deep down inside Job knows the truth. It has just been clouded over by life's experiences. Job understands that trials are used to purify us just as gold is refined in the refiners fire so that it can become pure, all the impurities can be removed. Peter put it this way in I Peter 1:6-9, **“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith; the salvation of your souls.”**

Morgan put it likes this in regards to what Job has said, “Suddenly, in the midst of this bitter complaining, there flamed out a most remarkable evidence of the tenacity of his faith. He declared with conviction that God knew the way he was taking. He even affirmed his confidence that it was God who was trying him, and that presently he would come forth from the process as gold.” How true that is, we might not always know what is going on, but God does!

2. And make no mistake about, Job still is maintaining his innocence before God, how he has kept the Word of God. Notice that even Job says way back then, that the Word of God is important to his life. It is even more important than physical food. Looking at our bodies we can easily see that we are feeding them, but I wonder how many of us are feeding our spiritual bodies with the Word of God? Are we spiritually malnourished? Remember what Peter said in I Peter 2:1-3, **“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”**

First you cast out those sins and then you take in the pure, uncontaminated, unadulterated Word of God so that you can grow, mature in the faith. Let’s see if you can answer this question. “When does a newborn baby want to eat?” A baby wants to eat whenever, wherever it wants. It has this inborn passion to eat and nothing will stop a newborn from getting the food that it wants! May we have that hunger for God’s Word!

You see, if you tasted that the Lord is good, that He is gracious, then you are going to want to know Him more and more, you will feed upon the Word of God! It is as Grudem tells us, “To drink the milk of the Word is to ‘taste’ again and again what He is like, for in the hearing of the Lord’s words believers experience the joy of personal fellowship with the Lord Himself.” It is as Jeremiah tells us, **“Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.”** Jeremiah 15:16. May we have that passion to know God!

Why are so many Christians slipping today in the faith? I believe it is because they are not holding onto the Word of God in their lives. We need to hold fast to His steps and the only way we are going to know where to walk is by following His Guidebook, the Word of God!

VERSES 13-17

1. Here we see that Job is speaking of the sovereignty of God. What that means is that God is in His control. Nothing escapes Him. It is as Psalm 115:3 says, **“But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.”**

2. Now please hear me out on this. In saying that this does not negate our responsibility to pray, as some would have you believe. They say things like, “God is going to do whatever He wants, so why pray?” That is a great question and the answer is simple. Because God tells us to pray and what God does through prayer is conform our heart to His. Yes God does answer our prayers, and how it all works I don’t fully understand it nor do I need to! I know when God was going to destroy unbelieving Israel, Moses stepped in and interceded for them, but again I think that was the heart of God. In Matthew 24:20 we see Jesus saying to the Jews who will be living during the Tribulation Period, **“And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.”**

The bottom line is this. I don't want to change the mind of God so that my will is done. I want Him to change my mind so that His will is done! Why do I feel that way? Because I don't always know what is best for me and many times I would avoid the painful things that God desires me to go through so I may grow in the faith. God has what is best and I need to learn to trust Him! I need to pray and seek His will for my life as you do!

3. Now why is Job so afraid of God? Because he believes in the sovereignty of God, he believes in the power of God, but his life circumstances have clouded his picture of the love of God. You see, if God is not a God of love, if that is not His character, then ***LOOK OUT!***

What do the Scriptures tell us of God's love for us? Well, we can spend a lifetime studying this but let me give you a few examples to show you how much He loves you! Paul tells us Ephesians 2:4, "**But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.**" And in Jeremiah 31:3 we are told, "**The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.'**" How long is God's love for us? It is ***EVERLASTING!*** May we not forget that!

4. Have you ever found yourself doing well; standing strong in the faith one minute and then the next we make some kind of foolish statement? I have and I am sure you have as well and that is what we see Job doing here. Mason comments on this by saying, “Job’s strongest assertions of faith seem always to be coupled with equally strong assertions of fear and pain. In this chapter his confidence in his own righteousness is more unassailable than ever, yet at the same time ‘thick darkness covers’ his face and he is filled with dread. Somehow Job’s faith is elastic enough to embrace simultaneously both terror and confidence.” Let our faith be stable, built upon the **ROCK** and not upon some roller coaster with all its up’s and down’s!

5. Job will continue on in chapter 24 defending himself and trying to figure God out.

JOB 24

VERSES 1-8

1. Job starts out by wondering why God does not judge the wicked now. Again, God has His plan and His purposes and no one gets away with anything. After that we see Job go on and speak about the injustices that he sees in the country in Job 24:2-11. And then in Job 24:12-17 we see Job speak of the injustices he sees in the city!

2. Job is speaking of what wicked men do. They move property lines. They take people's livestock and eat them. They oppress the orphaned. They take the widow's animals. They oppress the weak. They leave them naked with no shelter from the elements. "God, do something about them!" is his cry!

VERSES 9-12

1. Job has seen the wicked do all these things. They have kidnapped the young. They have taken from the poor causing them to go naked and hungry without anything to drink. And yet God lets them get away with it. God does not always punish the wicked here and now and that is something that Job did not understand and many times we have a hard time understanding!

Lawson put it like this, "Job pleads with God to subpoena sinners and judge them. With mounting frustration, Job cites example after example of sinners who go unpunished." And Smick sums it up for us as he tells us, "Job felt God should demonstrate his justice by openly punishing the wicked. In the divine speeches God would teach him a tremendous lesson about this, which he did not now understand." And we will see that as we move on in the book of Job.

2. In verse 12 we move on to the oppression and injustices that were going on in the city that Job was struggling with also.

VERSES 13-17

1. Now here's the thing and we understand this. Not only do the Scriptures teach it but we have seen it firsthand. The wicked run from the truth, the light, because it exposes their evil deeds. Remember what Jesus said in John 3:19-20, "**And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.**" Why do you think most evil is done in the dark, because the light will expose their evil ways! Look at bars, night clubs and you will find that they are very dark, and the reason is simple, because with the lights turned up, your deeds will be exposed.

2. Yes, the wicked love the dark because they can get away with murder, or so they think. But John makes it very clear regarding where you are walking in I John 1:5-7 as he tells us, "**This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**" Where are you walking?

3. As I read this I am reminded of what Paul said in Romans 13:11-14. He wrote, “**And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**” May we redeem the time because they days are evil and we need to know where we are walking! How do we do that? Let the Lord be our Shepherd and follow Him!

VERSES 18-21

1. Remember before Job was wondering why God did not judge the wicked as He should. We saw that in Job 24:1. Now it would seem that Job is giving God advice in how to judge the wicked and he wants them judged now, not only when they go to the grave! Let me say this and I think we all know it but sometimes we don't apply it. God does not need our help, He does not need our advice, He has done just fine without us and we need to remember that. Yes that is the way it should be, the wicked should be judged now but God is gracious and merciful and that is not how it always happens. God has a purpose, God has a plan, and no one gets away with anything!

VERSES 22-25

1. Here we see Job putting a challenge out to these guys, asking them to speak if he is wrong with what he has said. Make his words of no value; make them empty if he is wrong. Well Bildad is going to speak next and hammer Job some more. And even though chapter 25 is a very short chapter, we will dig into next time because what Bildad has to say will be followed by a rebuttal by Job.

2. Let me close with these words from Spurgeon, who wrote, “Job challenges all men to contradict what he affirms, - that the righteous may be greater sufferers, and the wicked may for awhile prosper, but that God will, in the end, overthrow the ungodly, and establish the righteous.” It is easy to get discouraged but keep your eyes on the Lord and don’t try to figure everything out, you will only be frustrated and many times come to the wrong conclusions. We will not, this side of heaven, understand the how’s and why’s of God, but we can trust Him!