

JOB

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Job chapter 25 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As we move into Job chapter 25 we are in round 3 of this three round title fight you might say. We have seen Eliphaz put his two cents in for three rounds in Job chapters 4, 15 and 22. We have seen Zophar go for two rounds of this title fight in Job chapters 11 and 20. Why did he drop out of this fight? Probably because he had nothing more to say to Job. And then we see Bildad go at Job in Job chapters 8, 18 and here this evening in chapter 25.

Now as you look at this chapter it is very short, only 6 verses, how come? I think again, what more could he say. They blasted Job and Job continues to claim his innocence and they don't believe him. It is as Samuel Ridout wrote regarding this chapter,

Judging from the brevity of Bildad's address, and the fact that it contains practically nothing new, it would seem that the friends have exhausted all the arguments that their position permitted them to advance. And this is saying a great deal, for they were men of sober thoughtfulness, with abilities for expression rarely excelled. Their language is noble and elevated, their metaphors of rare beauty and force, but their position and contention were wrong, narrow and untenable [unsound].

- Samuel Ridout, Job: An Exposition, p.127

Now keep in mind that last week we saw Eliphaz speak his mind, accusing Job of strong arming the poor. Leaving them naked, without food or water, this was all just a bunch of lies. Job did not do any of those things, and yet, in the mind of Eliphaz, he had to, for God only punishes those that are wicked, and thus, Job must be a very wicked person with all that has happened to him.

This evening, as I have said, Bildad will speak and share what he thinks, and he doesn't have a lot to say anymore. It seems that he is running out of material to condemn Job with. He is running out of fuel for the fire. That may also be the reason that Zophar does not speak for the third time, for there is really nothing left to say, it has all been said before. Now as we get into the shortest speech in the book of Job, it will lead to the longest speech in the book of Job that is given by Job himself, from chapter 26 through chapter 31. With that said, let's begin reading in Job chapter 25, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

JOB 25**VERSES 1-6**

1. Now what Bildad is saying here is nothing new. He is saying that man cannot be righteous before God and the idea here is that he is coming against Job. He believed Job was trying to say that he was righteous, that he had no problems. Job really did not say that, what he was saying is that he did nothing wrong to deserve this and he was right. In Job 9:2 Job said, **“Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God?”** In other words Job understood that man could not be righteous, perfect before a holy and righteous God, that was not his point at all and yet, Bildad is slamming him for thinking this way!

2. Now this is interesting to me because Bildad rightly points out that a man is nothing more than a worm. There is no good in him. Up through the last century this was known as “worm theology.” That is to say that there is nothing good inside of us, there is nothing that God saw in any of us that caused Him to save us. He did not say, “Joe is a good man, I think he deserves to be saved and sit beside Me.” Not at all, in fact it is just the opposite! All our righteousness is like filthy rags before a holy and righteous God.

You see, God saved us by His grace and mercy alone and not because we were worth saving or had some kind of redeeming quality in us. As God said to Israel we can easily apply to our own lives in Deuteronomy 9:6 where we are told, **“Therefore understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.”**

Now in saying that, listen to what we are told in Psalm 22:6, **“But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.”** Now keep in mind that Psalm 22 is a picture of Jesus hanging on the cross of Calvary. That means that it is Jesus that is calling Himself a worm, He is seen even lower than a man!

How can that be? How can Jesus, Almighty God, the Great I AM call Himself a worm? The Lord of glory, the Creator of heaven and earth not only became lower than the angels, not only lower than man, but became a **WORM** for us! (Hebrews 2:6-9). A worm is a symbol of weakness, helplessness; it is despised, and looked down upon. Why did Jesus become a worm for us?

First of all the Hebrew word for **“worm”** is TOLAATH or TOLAITH a “scarlet worm.” It is known as the Coccus ilicis. This worm was used by the Jews to dye the curtains of the Tabernacle scarlet red. Now to do that you would have to crush the worm and as you did this scarlet color would be released, and it was then used to dye these curtains red.

Now how in the world does that relate to Christ? Simply, before we can be cleansed by the blood of Christ He needed to be crushed for our sin. Thus, as the blood of Christ flows it cleanses us from our sins when it is applied to our lives. It is as Isaiah 1:18 says, **“Come now, and let us reason together, ‘Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’”**

You see, Leviticus 17:11 says, **“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”** This is so important, you see, without the offering of a sacrifice there is no atonement for our sins. And this is not just an Old Testament thought, for in Hebrews 9:22 we read, **“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”**

Not only does this worm need to be crushed to release this red dye, but when this worm was ready to give birth, it would climb up a tree and attach itself to a branch. And as it gave birth it would burst open and die, but in the process it would bring forth life. And as this worm died and fell off the tree, it would leave a scarlet stain on that tree.

What or who did Jesus give birth to when He died on the cross of Calvary? The Church! Then, after approximately three days, the crimson spot would dry, turn white, and flake off like snow. Isn't that what we just read in Isaiah, though your sins were **“red”** tolaith they shall be **“white”** as snow! That is our God; He became a worm so we can be cleansed of our sin! It is only by the righteousness of Christ which has been imputed to us that we can stand before God as white as snow - pure!

3. Now what has happened in this century and this past century is that we have moved away from this idea of “worm theology” and have exulted self to a position of greatness. Pride has become a virtue! Those that adhere to this new theology say that God saved us because we were worth it, we are valuable to Him. That totally goes against what the Scriptures are teaching us.

Paul said in Romans 3:10-12, **“As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.’”**

And Jesus said in Matthew 5:3-4, **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.”**

It is only those who recognize their sinful condition and are broken, those that are mourning over it, that will look up to God. We all are worms saved by grace. Not a pretty picture, but the truth.

Now listen to what one of the great Puritan’s, Joseph Alleine wrote in 1662 after being imprisoned twice for his faith and you will see how much our theology has changed over the years, and not for the better. He said, “I am not baiting my hook with rhetoric, nor fishing for your applause, but for your souls. My work is not to please you, but to save you. . . . If I were to please your ears, I would sing another song. . . . But how much better are the wounds of a friend than the fair speeches of the harlot. . . . I know, if we succeed not with you, you are lost; if we cannot get your consent to arise and come away, you will perish forever. No conversion - no salvation!” How true, it is not about how good we are but how great He is and what He has done for us. I love the way J. Vernon McGee puts it, he said, “We haven’t come from worms, we are worms!”

4. Now let’s see how Job responds to what Bildad had to say.

JOB 26**VERSES 1-4**

1. Job is rebuking Bildad and really all three of his friends for the words that they spoke to him. You see, what they said was of no real help. Did they speak some truth, some good things? Sure they did but the bottom line was that none of the things they spoke were helpful to Job. In fact, what they spoke was condemnation, rebuke, and destruction upon Job. Now was this of God? No, we have said this many times already. This was their own personal wisdom that they tried to give Job and it hurt, it did not help Job.

2. Now think about what the ministry of the Holy Spirit is. In regards to counseling, to helping people the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to comfort, to strengthen, to edify, and to heal people. Let us not be like Job's friends and tear down, but to build people up in the faith. What about when someone is in sin? Again, the idea is not destruction but restoration in the words you say to them!

VERSES 5-13

1. Job now speaks of the awesome power of God in the universe. That He is in control of all things. Let's start out with this first statement that **“He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.”** Now this is an amazing statement for the people of Job's day! Job is telling us that the earth hangs upon nothing, there is nothing holding it up. Keep in mind that the Hindu people believed the earth was held up or suspended upon four elephants which stood on the back of a giant tortoise that was floating on the surface of the world's waters!

There were others who believed that the earth was supported on the shoulders of Atlas or some strong man! For the Vedic priests, the earth was set on 12 solid pillars; its upper side was its only habitable side. The Altaic people of Northern Siberia affirm that their mighty Ulgen created the earth on the waters and placed under it three great fish to support it. And the Tartars and many of the other tribes of Eurasia believed the earth to be supported by a great bull! Man got it wrong; God got it right and spoke through Job to let us know that there is nothing observable holding up the earth! Job spoke this some 4,000 years ago!

Now what about this “**empty space**” to the north? Recently scientists have discovered that an area to the north of the axis of our earth, toward the polar star, is almost empty of stars in contrast to the other directions! In fact, Mitchell Waldrop wrote this in regards to this emptiness to the north in Science magazine, “The recently announced ‘hole in space,’ a 300 million-light-year gap in the distribution of galaxies, has taken cosmologists by surprise. . . . But three very deep core samples in the Northern Hemisphere, lying in the general direction of the constellation Bootes, showed striking gaps in the red shift distribution.” (Mitchell Waldrop, “Delving the Hole In Space,” Science magazine, Nov. 27, 1981).

Interestingly enough, this emptiness in the direction to the North of our solar system is not visible by the naked eye! How did Job know this? God knew it and spoke through Job. Science finally caught up with the Bible!

2. Think about water and how it is converted by solar energy into a vapor state. And because water vapor is lighter than air the winds can elevate and then transport the water from the oceans to the land. Now here is the problem. He said, “**He binds up the water in His thick clouds, Yet the clouds are not broken under it.**” The answer is in the “weight of the winds” and that the water droplets are very small. You see, as soft and fragile as clouds are, you can walk right through them, and yet they are able to hold large amounts of water without breaking. Again, something that Job had no way of knowing unless God gave him that information!

And Job’s point here in these verses is very strong. Not only is God in control of the world above and the world below but the very atmosphere He is in control of!

3. He also talks about the circular horizon, something that we take for granted today, but in Job's day, many did not see it that way. We see this same Hebrew word used for "**circle**" or "**compassed**" (KHUG) in Proverbs 8:27 where we are told, "**When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep.**"

The shape of the earth is a sphere, it is round, not flat and God not only told us, but He should know because He created it!

4. It is as Samuel Ridout wrote,

How immeasurably above the cosmogonies [the astrophysical study of the origin and evolution of the universe] of the heathen philosophers are these few grand words! In them we have as in germ the discoveries of a Newton and a Keppler. It is a great mistake to think Scripture does not teach scientific truth, even if not in scientific language, yet with scientific accuracy.

- Samuel Ridout, Job: An Exposition, p.133-134

VERSE 14

1. Job is just speaking of the greatness, the power of God. He knows these truths and yet he is mixed up on the love of God because he is letting his emotions guide his theology instead of the Word of God. And Job is speaking of just the "**edges of His ways**" just the fringe of what we can know about God and imagine what the full thunder of His power would be! We could not fully understand it!

JOB 27**VERSES 1-6**

1. As you can see, Job is standing on his belief that he is innocent and he is not going to give in to satisfy their lies. Listen to how J. Vernon McGee puts verses 2-4. He said “As God liveth, who hath taken away my right, and the Almighty, who hath embittered my soul (all the while my breath is in me, and the Spirit of God is in my nostrils); my lips shall not speak unrighteousness, nor my tongue utter deceit.”

In other words, Job is saying very clearly that he is determined not to give in and since Bildad or any of the others did not respond, Job keeps on talking and he is basically saying that he will never give in to their lies about him, he will never admit to these charges that they have brought against him because they are not true!

VERSES 7-10

1. Here Job, in rather strong terms, is asking for the same punishment his friends think he deserves to be put upon their own heads. Why did he want this? Because of their false accusations against Job!

2. Job speaks of the hypocrite and how he doesn't always call on God. You see, when things go bad, when life gets tough, when he does not get what he deserves, he gets mad at God. That is what Poole said, "He may by his afflictions be driven to prayer; but if God doth not speedily answer him, he falls into despair, and neglect of God and of prayer; whereas I constantly continue in prayer, notwithstanding the grievousness and the long continuance of my calamities."

And here's the thing. For those that don't know God there is no hope. Their wealth, their possessions will be meaningless in the Day of Judgment. Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, "**For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**"

People sell their soul for things that perish, things that can be stolen, things that will rot away or fall apart. None of these things of the world will last and thus, there is no profit in them, not eternal profit! Jesus also spoke of the rich man in Luke chapter 12, whose wealth was growing and he decided to increase his barn capacity. His thinking was that he was preparing to enjoy the future by resting on his profits. He was going to eat, drink and be merry, for he thought he had long to live. He did not deal with the weightier issues, the eternal issues and Jesus said to him, "**. . . 'You fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**" Luke 12:20-21. It is not good when Jesus calls you a fool. And He is telling us not to sell our soul for earthly treasures for we will have eternity to think about the wrong decision we have made!

And truly think about it for a minute. Who are you going to place your life in the hands of? Where are you going to put your hope? If it is not Jesus then you are being ripped off and many are going down that path today! Don't play the fool! And I can tell you from experience in the hospital. In the 30 years I worked there no one ever, on their dying bed, asked for an atheist to come to their side. Why didn't they? Because there is no hope in what they believe but there truly is hope in Jesus!

VERSES 11-12

1. Here we see Job show us that he understood that the wicked are not going to get away with anything even though at times these truths were clouded over by life's experiences. And he is telling his friends that these issues are not as black and white as they have made them out to be. It is as Smick wrote, "Job was saying, 'Must I teach you about God's power to punish? Indeed, I could never conceal from you a subject on which you have expounded at length.'" You see, as you listen to Job's friends they spoke as if they knew the ways of God and yet, when it came to the counsel they gave to Job it was just plain foolish! They did not apply it like they should have!

And thus, Job said that he is going to teach them about the hand of God since they just did not get it or rightly apply it!

VERSES 13-23

1. Job did not deny the justice of God upon the wicked; he is showing us here that he believed it. His problem was how his friends saw Job, as wicked and that is why he was being judged. And that is interesting because the friends of Job never saw themselves as wicked before a holy and righteous God! It is always easier to point out someone else's sin when we see it than our own!

Anderson put it like this. "Hence his prediction of the judgment on the godless is not a belated conversion to his friends' point of view . . . Since Job nowhere denies the justice of God, it is not inconsistent for him to affirm it here. The disagreement between Job and his friends is not over whether God is just or not; it is over how the justice of God is seen to work out in particular events, and specifically in Job's experiences." The wicked shall be judged!

JOB 28VERSES 1-4

1. As you read this you may be wondering how this fits into what Job has been saying. He is now talking about mining and what does that have to do with the situation he is in? That is a good question and I think the answer is found in verses 12 and 20 of this chapter where we are told, "**But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? . . . From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding?**" Job 28:12, 20.

In other words, when Job is talking about men who go down into the earth and dig for precious stones and metals and bring them back up to the surface, which was dangerous work and yet they had their mind-set that the benefits, the rewards far outweighed the risks as they dug for these treasures, is like man digging for the wisdom of God.

And think about it. When we dig into God's Word we pray that the Holy Spirit would help us mine out the truths of God found in the Word of God, that as we mine we would find those nuggets of gold that we can apply to our lives! I believe that is what Job is speaking of here and that is what this chapter is built upon, discovering the wisdom of God.

VERSES 5-11

1. Here we see Job continue to paint this picture of the rich treasures that are in the earth for those that are willing to work for it. You see, these men would dig; they would cut away the rock as they searched for precious stones and metals and then they would carry these treasures away with them. This is what man is seeking and yet Job is going to tell us what we should seek, something that is more valuable than rocks or metals and that is wisdom and understanding. Yes, man works hard to find these precious treasures and yet, he is lazy when it comes to searching out the treasures of God!

VERSES 12-19

1. Job is saying that men are willing to search and endure all kinds of danger to find riches in this earth but when it comes to wisdom, they miss out because they are looking in all the wrong places. And this is important because the world sees things differently here. Job is saying that as precious and valuable as these stones and metals may be, they are worthless when compared to wisdom. You can't buy it with all the tea in China nor can you find it by searching the deep. It is not gained or mined out of the earth.

Think about the world we live in, it is a world that is vastly more intelligent than 100 years ago and even more than just 50 years ago. We have more information coming at us today than we know what to do with. And yet, for all that intelligence, we are very unwise. You see, intelligence, in the Hebrew mind, is the accumulation of knowledge. Wisdom, on the other hand, is taking what we know and applying that to our lives. It is the application of knowledge.

For instance, today we have all the information pointing to a Designer, a Creator, that there is a God, and yet with all that knowledge we are not applying it to our lives. What we say is that life came from non-life and we all have evolved. Paul put it this way in Romans chapter 1 as he shows us how the information is there; it is just not applied to our lives. He said, **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. . . . Professing to be wise, they became fools.”** Romans 1:18-19, 22.

2. Poole puts it like this, “Man doth not *see* this wisdom but only so far as God is pleased to reveal it to him, and therefore he cannot *declare* it to others; man did not *prepare*, nor *order*, nor *contrive* it, and therefore no wonder if he cannot *search it out*.” How true that is!

3. Now here’s the thing. God has given to us all the information that we need to live out our lives and that information is in His Word. Everything you need to know about how to get through this day is given to us by God. What we need to do is to take the information that God has given to us in His Word and apply it to our lives. That is wisdom!

VERSES 20-28

1. In these verses we see Job speak of the source of wisdom and he gives to us a summary regarding wisdom. He tells us that wisdom originates from God. Thus, as we apply the Word of God to our life, the application of truth, we are exercising wisdom. Proverbs 2:1-9 says, **“My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.”**

Now here's the thing. To try and understand life outside of God is impossible! Do we as Christians dig into the Word of God as much as men dig into the earth looking for treasure? The problem for many of us is that we do not see the Word of God as a treasure but make no mistake about it, what we find in the Word of God is richer and more important than anything we can dig from the dirt of this earth!

2. Now verse 25 is interesting because it tells us that there is weight for the wind. Is that true? Yes it is! Did you realize that the fact that air has *weight* was proven scientifically only about 300 years ago? Imagine that, only 300 years ago! Is this important? You bet it is. You see, the relative weights of air and water are needed for the efficient functioning of the world's hydrologic cycle, which in turn sustains life on the earth. You see, God knew this, He created the heavens and the earth and He has told us long before we discovered it! It was not random chance happenings that all this is working out. There is a God who created the heavens and the earth, end of story!

3. Job speaks of wisdom and that means we should fear the Lord. This is what Solomon picked-up on in Proverbs. We read in Proverbs 9:10, "**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**" It is the proper reverence of God. We must understand that He is holy and righteous and desires our worship. He is not some puppet that we pull His strings to get what we want.

It is the proper reverence of God that leads us to what Solomon says in Proverbs 8:13, that **“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.”** We should strive to do good because of our reverence of God and thus we should hate evil just as He hates evil.

You see, this can only come from God as we search out His Word. It is as Spurgeon put it, “He seems to say that, though men should explore the deep places of the earth with all the diligence of miners seeking gold and silver, though they should exert all their mental force, as miners use all their muscular vigor, and though they should employ all the machinery within their reach, as men do who pierce through the rocks in search of precious treasure yet it is not within the range of human labor and skill to attain unto wisdom. That can only be found by another and a higher method; it must come to us by revelation from God, for we cannot find it by our own efforts.” May we never think we are so smart, so wise that we do not need God! When a person comes to that conclusion, look out, he is going to fall and fall hard!

You see, “Having shown God as the Source of wisdom, the author now makes his application to man. Man must look to God for wisdom. Man may share in it only through a knowledge of the revealed mind of God.” (Smick) Thus, are we willing to make that sacrifice, the sacrifice of self, to surrender our will to His? If we do, we truly will find wisdom, the wisdom of God for our lives!

4. As we move into Job chapter 29 we will see Job tell us about his life, what it was like in the past when things were going well.

JOB 29**VERSES 1-6**

1. Job is reminiscing about his past, about the good times he had, all the joy before all this came upon his life. And in this case he was right; his life was a lot easier before all this. Job walked in the light of God. He gave godly counsel to those around him. His children, who are all dead now, use to run around his feet, and what joy their voices brought him. But now that is all gone. Goodness at one time seemed to follow him wherever he went, now not so much.

And here is where I think Job got it wrong; in fact I know he got it wrong. He seems to be saying when things were going well God was with Him, God was watching over him, guiding him and ever since things have gotten bad, God is not doing any of that! Of course that is not true, God is with Job just as God is with us and will never leave us! You see, Job was going by feelings and he did not feel that God was with him, watching over him by what he saw, what he felt. We must not go by what we feel or what we see but always place it in the light of God's Word!

VERSES 7-17

1. Job has held back so far in regards to speaking of his good works but now he is sharing the things he did as the evidence for his faith in God. Job was a respected man at one time who sat at the gate of the city; he was part of the city council. The young would not approach this great man, they were in awe of him, and the aged stood in respect of him. In fact, you get the idea that when Job talked it was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. Everyone wanted to hear what he had to say. It is like those old E. F. Hutton commercials, “When E. F. Hutton talks, people listen!” That was Job!

2. And if you remember earlier on, his friends accused Job of oppressing the poor, taking advantage of the fatherless, the orphaned. How he made them go naked, without food and water or anything to keep themselves warm. But now Job is saying the complete opposite of what they have said. He is coming against their lies and telling them that he has helped the poor. He has helped the fatherless, the orphaned. He brought joy to the widow’s heart and clothed the poor. He stood against the wicked. He was a good man that practiced what he believed. As James 1:22 says may we apply to our lives, **“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”**

And keep in mind James is not speaking of a works salvation, but he is saying that true salvation will produce good works in our lives. It is the evidence for our faith! Job was a good man and his friends knew that, they saw what Job did in his life before all this. Then why did they come against him like they did? Because they were trying to rationalize in their own minds why this was happening to Job and in their theology, he must have sinned, he must have hurt people, taken advantage of them for all this to come upon him. But Job shows them that this was wrong, he did care for people and his good works shows that!

VERSES 18-20

1. As you read this you get the idea that Job had it all figured out. Since he was doing good he would live to a good old age and his life would continue to be blessed. In other words, “I’ve got it made. My 401K is doing well. I have plenty for retirement. My health is great, got a good check up from the doctor. My bills are paid. What more can I ask for. I will live to a good old age.” But now it is not working out as he has planned it. And because he was so blessed before, now that all this has come upon him, it is more unbearable for him.

For us as Christians, we live one day at a time. Everything we have can be taken away in a moment and all we may be left with is the Lord. Is that enough for you? You see, that is what Job is trying to figure out and he is not sure about God at this point, if God truly loved him anymore. We know that God did and the Lord was trying to get Job to look up and not be drowned in the circumstances of life. That is a good lesson for us to learn in our walk with the Lord.

VERSES 21-25

1. Job is just sharing about the life he once had before all this calamity came upon him.

People used to gather and wait in line to hear the wisdom of Job. His words were refreshing to them; they rejuvenated those that heard his words. They stood drinking in the words of Job.

2. Now as Christians we should do the same with the Word of God, we should drink it in; fill our lives with it so much so that when we speak it is the Word of God that comes forth and not the words of man. Jesus said in John 6:63, **“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”**

In other words, put your focus on spiritual things and not fleshly things! Be in the Word of God because it will bring to you that abundant life that is found in Jesus! It is as Psalm 119:103 tells us, **“How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!”** May we take the Word of God into our lives; it is our spiritual nourishment that we need every day of our lives!

3. Now verse 24 of Job chapter 29 can be a little confusing. It says, **“If I mocked at them, they did not believe it, And the light of my countenance they did not cast down.”** Why would Job mock them, that does not seem right. I think the Amplified Bible makes this verse a little clearer. It reads, “I smiled on them when they had no confidence, and their depression did not cast down the light of my countenance.”

In other words, the light of God shown through Job and touched the lives of those around him. And it did not matter who came across his path, he still had the love of God and the wisdom of God flowing from his life. It is as Matthew 5:16 says, “**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**”

4. That is the way it was, Job received a lot of respect from the multitudes of people that came to hear him. But now things have changed dramatically as Job is going to share with us and we will pick this up next time in Job chapter 30.

5. As I close I want to leave you with this to think about. Job was a very wealthy man and he did not let that wealth go to his head. He helped people in need. He was a very wise man and he did not keep that wisdom to himself, he shared it with others. It is as Clarke wrote, “Noble Job! Look at him, ye *nobles* of the earth, ye lieutenants of counties, ye generals of armies, and ye lords of provinces. Look at JOB! Imitate his active benevolence, and be healthy and happy. Be as guardian angels in your particular districts, blessing all by your example and your bounty. Send your *hunting horses* to the plough, your *game cocks* to the *dunghill*; and at last live like *men* and *Christians*.” May we use what God has given to us to bless others and let the light of God shine brightly in this very dark world!