

**JOB**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Job chapter 30 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Last time we left Job confronting his friends who have verbally beaten Job up. They claimed that Job has some secret sin that he is unwilling to confess and that is why all this calamity has come upon his life. That was not true but that is how they rationalized what was happening to Job.

In Job chapter 29 Job spoke of his past blessings. Now, here in Job chapter 30 we will see Job speak of his present situation, how he has been humiliated by those who were once his friends. With that as our background, let's begin reading in Job chapter 30, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

**JOB 30****VERSES 1-8**

1. Job had shared what life was like before all of this, the blessings that he had. But now he is sharing how bad things are for him and how people are treating him. You see, in Job's day there were people that roamed the streets that were nothing more than thieves, trouble makers that no one wanted around. These people lived off the land and were not physically healthy. They basically took what they could find, even the garbage that people threw out. And these people were hated by society and many times they were run out of town. No one wanted them for they were trouble makers.

Now these people were mocking Job! They were spitting at Job. The lowest of society were putting Job down, a man who was at one time held in high esteem, a man who was highly respected. The sons of men whom Job would not even put with the dogs of his flock were now his mockers and critics.

#### VERSES 9-15

1. Notice once again who Job is blaming here. It is God! This idea of loosening His bowstring is speaking of God putting Job on the shelf, ignoring him in a sense. And since God has done all this to him, it has given these people an opportunity to mock Job. They are now making up songs to come against Job like, “We will, we will spit on you!” or something like that. And that is exactly what they were doing to this poor man, spitting on him and thus, a man who was once held in high esteem, his name is now a byword. His honor and prosperity had vanished.
2. Mason puts this into perspective for us as he wrote, “He did not slink out of town; he was run out on a rail. Why else would he be sitting on an ash heap and scraping his pustules with a shard of pottery? Obviously his neighbors had forcibly removed him to quarantine in the town dump, where he would have been exposed to more disease, to the elements, to rats and lice – and worst of all, perhaps, to further public humiliation.”
3. The “**rabble**” spoken of in verse 12 is speaking of the lowest or coarsest class of people, and they are coming against him now!

VERSES 16-23

1. They are tripping Job, pushing him around and there is no one to stand up for him, no one willing to be on his side. He is in a mess, he is in pain and all this has caused him to come to the conclusion that God is against Him and God is putting him down. In fact, in Job 30:18-19 listen to how the New Living Translation puts these verses, **“With a strong hand, God grabs my shirt. He grips me by the collar of my coat. He has thrown me into the mud. I’m nothing more than dust and ashes.”**

That is his picture of God and it is not a correct one. But for Job, it seems that God has closed His ears to his cry. God is indifferent to Job’s plight. Habakkuk felt the same way. In Habakkuk 1:2 we read, **“O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, ‘Violence!’ And You will not save.”**

But God was working, only Habakkuk did not see it and when God tells him what He is about to do, Habakkuk is going to have a hard time believing. God said to Habakkuk, **“Look among the nations and watch; Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you. For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs.”**

Habakkuk 1:5-6. Just because we don’t see God working in our lives at this moment doesn’t mean that He isn’t! That was a lesson for Job, it was a lesson for Habakkuk and it is a lesson for us.

You see, God loves us more than we will ever know. And we must never forget that truth even when we go through some of the toughest trials of our life, as Job was.

Paul reminds us in Romans 8:37-39, **“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

I think most of us believe that when things are going well, but when the heat is turned up, when things are tough, when things are not going like we think they should, we lose sight of that fact that nothing can separate us from God’s love, ***NOTHING!***

2. As you can see with Job, one of the problems as we find ourselves in situations like this is we can become depressed and hopeless. Spurgeon puts it like this for us, “Under depression of spirit he felt sure that he must very soon die; he feared that God would not relax the blows of his hand until his body became a ruin, and then he would have rest. But he did not die at that time. He was fully recovered, and God gave him twice as much as he had before. A life of usefulness, and happiness, and honor lay before him; and yet he had set up his own tombstone, and reckoned himself a dead man.” Why spend all that time depressed and hopeless when you don’t have to. I don’t mean that everything will be fine in your life, but if your hope is in the Lord and you are resting in Him and receiving comfort from His Word, then we will have a correct perspective of who God is and what He is doing in our lives. Not that we will understand it every time, but we can rest in Him!

VERSES 24-31

1. As you listen to Job it is as if he is singing the blues you might say. And for Job, he was looking for help and it seems that he can't find any. Not even from God and things just seem to be getting worse and worse for him. Job is wondering why God won't respond to his cries. And God is silent and that just makes Job even more confused. But as Lawson points out regarding this silence of God, "As is our natural tendency, Job misinterprets God's silence as lack of concern and indifference. Job assumes that God's silence means God's displeasure." All of that was not even close to the truth but because Job lost the perspective of God he came to his own conclusions about God and they were wrong!

2. Now for Job it seems that life could not get any darker. I mean really, how much worse could it get? Well, it could get worse but God is not going to give us more than we can handle and I think we sell ourselves far short of what we can handle. You see, we look at what we can do and that is not the breaking point. It is when there is nothing we can do about a situation that we then must look up and I believe that is the way that God provides for us to get through the trial we are in, the testing of our faith. He will break us of self so that we can depend upon Him!

Paul makes this very point in I Corinthians 10:11-13 as he wrote, **“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”**

Paul is telling us that these examples are timeless, for each generation to learn from. And Paul is pointing us back to the Word of God! Truly that is where we can find hope, we can find comfort during difficult times because we can trust what the Lord is telling us and we can see what God has done in the past to His people, how He has brought them through difficult times and God is still the same today. Thus, He will see us through the times that we are going through!

Now the word that Paul uses for **“temptation”** is the Greek word PEIRASMOS (pi-ras-mos’) and it simply means to test or prove. God is showing us what is in our heart, He is testing our faith and the outcome is based upon how we respond to the testing, be it positive or negative! We must also note that in these tests God provides a way out – through Jesus Christ, not that the matter is resolved but we can go through it in His strength or we can succumb to the temptation and dishonor God! May we not lose sight of that!

3. Now for Job, the reality of the situation that he is in is that God is getting ready to bless Job twice as much as before. Remember the old adage, “It is always darkest before the dawn.” Job is going to find out how true that is in a very short time. That is how much God loves us even when we don’t feel His love we can know that He loves us by what He tells us in His Word. As I have said so many times before, you can’t go by feelings or emotions, because they can lead you astray. But you will never go wrong with God’s Word, it is truth and thus, you can **KNOW** that God loves you and has what is best for your life because His Word tells you!

4. One last point before we move on and that is this idea of what Job said in Job 30:25, **“Have I not wept for him who was in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?”** The point that Job is making is that he is wondering why God didn’t treat him with the same kindness that he had shown others. Again, Job was missing the point here. God did love Him and what He was doing was going to be far better than not allowing him to go through these things.

5. Now there is something that I would like to touch on and it is how Job felt for those in need, the less fortunate, those that were in trouble and-so-on. He wept, he grieved for them, it really is the heart of Jesus and it should be the heart of each of us. Now you may be thinking, “Hey, I’m not in ministry!” Sorry, we are all in ministry; we are all serving in the body of Christ! And instead of ministering to people like Job’s friends ministered to him, if you can call that ministering, it is more like condemning; we need to minister to people with the love of Christ!

Spurgeon looks at it like this, “I know that a man in the ministry who cannot feel had much better resign his office. We have heard some hold forth the doctrines of grace, as if they were a nauseous medicine, and men were to be forced to drink thereof by hard words and violent abuse. We have always thought that such men did more hurt than good, for while seeking to vindicate the letter, they evidently missed the spirit of the faith once delivered unto the saints. Cold and impassive are some of our divines; they utter truth as though it were no concern of theirs whether men received it or not. To such men heaven and hell, death and eternity, are mere themes for oratory, but not subjects for emotion.” In other words, we are not dealing with doctrine, we are dealing with people and we need to approach them in the love of Christ. And please understand I am not saying to negate the Word of God, you can’t minister to people apart from it, at least not in a helpful way. What I am saying is that you need to minister in a way that would encourage, edify, comfort, build the person up. You need to restore them and not destroy them! I think you understand that and we then need to apply that to our lives!



**JOB 31****VERSES 1-4**

1. Job is saying that he has not looked with lust or looked intently upon another woman. Now this was not just by accident, but Job made a covenant with his eyes or he purposed in his heart not to do these things. And please understand that the covenant here was made with God and against his eyes! And this is not only for lustful desires, but this covenant, this conscious decision affected all areas of his life. And I believe that this also suggests to us that the eyes are a gateway for lust, especially for men and I guess in our day and age, women are not exempt from this. This is demonstrated over and over again. Look at all the television commercials and how they play into sexual ideas. There is a hamburger commercial that is suppose to be hot, a jalapeño burger, and as this women is eating she is undressing because it is so hot and it is very sexual with the idea of enticing the men who are watching it to buy these hamburgers! Are we willing to guard our eyes, make a covenant with God against our eyes so we don't sin? We need to!

Mason puts this into perspective for us as he wrote, "When Job says the he has made a covenant with his eyes to abstain from lust, he does not mean that he has stopped experiencing lust altogether. What he means is that he refuses to dwell upon the lustful feelings which, as the normal red-blooded male he is, come to him very naturally." The point is this. What are you going to focus on, the lusts of the flesh which will destroy you or the Lord who will lift you up? The choice is yours!

2. Now in our day this is a problem. Let me kind of put it in perspective for you and then we will deal with it. Look at this world we are now living in and many would say it is not any worse than it was in the past. I do agree that there were times in the past when this world was just as wicked as today, like before the flood came! But let me show you what we are up against to put this into perspective for you. Compare what the world of a man was in back in 1500 A. D. and then in the world of today, 2012 A. D. Listen carefully!

- In 1500 the average age of a man's economic independence was 16; today it is 26.
- In 1500 the average age of marriage for a man was 18; today it is 28.
- In 1500 the average age of male puberty was 20; today it is 12.

We have come a long way baby and not in a good way! We think we are so much better today and the reality is, we are even more wicked, more depraved. Try turning on a television show and see how many sexual innuendos you will find in that show. And the reality of it all is they don't even need to use innuendoes, they just speak all kinds of vulgar and sexually obscene language like it is nothing. See how many times you will now see gay or lesbian actors and actresses on television and many of them are kids, young adults promoting a lifestyle that God condemns and calls a sin! That is what we are up against today and the attack is not only with adults, it is also with our children. You doubt that. Let me show you what is going on in the Manitowoc County School District, this is from Valders High School and what they are teaching our children!

In one of the classes this is the handout “Sexual Motivation” and it deals with homosexuality, transgender and-so-on, teaching the young adults that this is a normal lifestyle! Here is one of the questions.

*17. A person’s sexual orientation **does not** appear to be voluntarily chosen.*

Now understand that the correct answer was “**does not**” and they are telling our young adults that you have no choice in the matter, you are gay or transgender because it is in your genes! If you doubt that, listen to another question.

*28. Gay males and lesbians may have a certain physical traits more typical of those of the other gender, including **fingerprint** patterns, greater odds of being **left handed** and anatomical traits of the **cochlea** within the hearing system.*

Okay, how many of you are left handed in here? You have to be kidding me, that is science, that is the evidence. Think about all those CSI shows you watch on television. When they do the fingerprint analysis the conclusion will be by looking at these fingerprints, “The killer is a gay man, I can tell by his fingerprints!” Really, come on, let’s get real and yet they are promoting this sinful lifestyle, opening the eyes of our kids to this garbage so they will believe it and negate what God’s Word has to say! And there is more but you get the point. There is even another handout that tells you to label or identify if the person is heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual based on the information they are giving. I guess this kind of profiling is okay when it is trying to support their agenda of promoting the gay lifestyle!

Paul warns us in Ephesians 5:15-21, **“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”**

Paul is warning us as we walk through this life to be careful, to pay attention, to look around and make sure you are not going into areas that are dangerous, that will hurt you in your walk with the Lord and hurt you physically, emotionally. Stay awake, be on guard and focus on the Lord and be guided by His Spirit. If you walk in the Spirit you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh!

Peter also warns us what we need to do because these days are evil. In I Peter 1:13-16 Peter said, **“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”** I Peter 1:13-16.

Peter is speaking of this practical righteousness where we purpose in our heart not to let lust enter our eyes and our minds, causing us to stumble in our relationship with God. We should have that desire to walk in righteousness. We need to make a conscious decision on our part to live as God wants us to live.

You see, the bottom line is this. God not only knows everything we do, but everything we think. That is what Paul tells us in Hebrews 4:13, “**... 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.**” In the context of Job’s self-control when it came to lust, it was helpful for him to consider that God’s eye was upon him all the time. I think that is what we need to do, remember that God is aware of all we do, all we think, all we say and may that cause us to move away from these perverted lifestyles, these sins that have destroyed so many lives!

Now many feel that because they can do evil, God either is not aware or can’t do anything about it. They will not get away with anything! Remember the flood. Remember Sodom and Gomorrah and the judgment that came upon them. There is another judgment of God coming and the wicked will be destroyed and the righteous will enter in as He will come and set up His kingdom on this earth and righteousness will fill this land. But until that time, make a covenant with your eyes, purpose in your heart that you will not dwell upon evil. Draw close to God and may His heart be your heart!

VERSES 5-8

1. Job is willing to have his life actions be placed in the balances of God, a just balance, and if it comes up short, he is willing to be judged accordingly. But Job feels that he has tried to do good and his life reflected that. It is as Chambers said, “Do you think that I am trying to make out before God that I am what I have not been? Would I talk to God with what would be blatant insolence if I had not the facts to back me up?” In other words, Job would not try to hide his sin and then come before God and say that he wants God to judge him accordingly. That would be foolish.

2. Now here is the problem for us today. Many feel if our good deeds outweigh our bad deeds then we will be accepted by God. Even Orthodox Jewish people today feel this way. As the Day of Atonement approaches they try to do many good deeds to outweigh all the bad they have done throughout the year so that they will be accepted by God. It sounds good, it sounds logical from a human perspective but when you place that thought in the light of God’s Word it comes up far short!

You see, that is not God’s standard for righteousness. God demands perfection and He tells us that there is none who are good, not even one. He tells us that our righteousness is like filthy rags before Him. He is a holy and righteous God. That is the problem, we can’t be good enough, do enough good works to get into heaven. It is impossible for us to enter in on our own!

But God never expected us to. Listen to what we are told in Leviticus 17:11, **“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.”**

Now some may argue and say that this was the Old Testament. That is true but God is the same yesterday, today and forever!

You see, it really has not changed at all. What we do see is that it has been completed in the work of Christ on the cross of Calvary. Hebrews 9:13-15 makes that very point as it tells us, **“For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”**

It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from *ALL* our sins. Now here’s the thing. Good works do not save us, never have and never will, not even in the Old Testament. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. It is His finished work on the cross of Calvary and not our own. Good works are the evidence for our faith, they don’t save us and that is the point that James made in his epistle! Thus, we do not call for God’s justice in our lives because we would be in trouble. We call out for His grace and mercy that He extends to us through Jesus!

VERSES 9-12

1. Here we see Job denying that he has been involved in an adulterous relationship, and if he has, he is willing to be judged for it. Again, Job is not trying to hide anything like his friends have tried to insinuate or suggest!

2. Now here is the problem. It is possible to allow your heart to be enticed by another. When the sin of adultery is exposed in someone's life today, they say things like, "We just fell in love!" "We were not looking for anything to happen, it just did!" "God brought us together!" That is the one that really irritates me because they blame God for their sin! And there are others, but you get the idea. They are trying to blame it on some mystical or some kind of magical power that came over them. Not at all, it was lust, it was sin that was brought into your life through your eyes and it entered your mind and heart and consumed you until the sin was manifested outwardly!



And make no mistake about it; sin has a way of destroying people's lives.

Solomon said in Proverbs 6:27-28, "**Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?**" In other words, Solomon is saying that you can't play with fire without getting burned. Many of you remember Ted Bundy who was that serial killer who raped women. In an interview before his execution he said that pornographic material began to consume his life until he needed more and more of it and finally he needed to act out these desires to satisfy his lusts. Now not everyone who reads pornographic material will become a serial killer, but it will affect your life in a negative way, for God even warns us not to play with fire, but will we listen? I pray that we do, we heed His warnings, because like I have said so many times, Father knows best!

#### VERSES 13-15

1. In these verses we see Job speak of how he treated people, those that others may have looked down upon and thought inferior they mistreated and yet, Job treated them like he treated everyone else. I wish people would listen to what Job is saying because people love to put down the Bible and say it promotes slavery and it doesn't. They love to say that the Bible teaches certain races of people are inferior to others and it doesn't. Job is telling us that he doesn't treat people differently because of their social status, the color of their skin, their nationality, because God has created us all, from kings to servants. We should treat people with fairness and kindness for we all have been fashioned by the hand of God.

2. Now when you read that it sounds like a New Testament thought and it is but again, we see it in the Old Testament because God is the same and what He has instructed His people is the same. Job knew that we are all descendants of Adam; we are all related and thus, should not be treated differently. Also, Paul makes this point of how we are to treat people in Philippians 2:1-4, **“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”** May we not forget that fact! May we care for and treat people the way the Christ cares for and treats us!

#### VERSES 16-23

1. Job continues to try and show his righteousness, to testify that he has done good and not evil. Job says that he has never walked away from anyone in need, but has come to their aid and given to them what they needed to live, be it food, clothing, even help against their enemies. Job was doing what James 1:22 admonishes us to do. He said, **“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”**

Now think about what Job is doing. He is saying, “Look God, I have been so good, I have treated people fairly, I have come to their need and thus, You are unjust in the way You are treating me! You are wrong!” Now was that true? Absolutely not, God is not wrong, He is not unjust, He is not unfair but that was the perspective that Job had! The only solution to that problem is to humbly admit that we are dust, we are not worthy of anything and God is so gracious and merciful to give us what we do have! We need to be able to praise Him above everything else that happens in our life. His praise is not dependent upon what we get, what we own, how much we have in the bank account, but because He is ***GOD!***

#### VERSES 24-28

1. Job now speaks of his integrity in regards to the wealth that he had. His wealth did not control his life! Job did not worship his wealth. Job did not place his confidence in his wealth. Again, that is a New Testament thought. Jesus said in Matthew chapter 6, “**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. . . . No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**” Matthew 6:19-21, 24. Who are you serving?

2. Now this worship of the heavens - the sun, moon and constellations was very popular and, of course, very pagan. The whole idea behind the tower of Babel was not to build a tower to reach up into heaven but an observatory to worship and communicate with the heavens, the spirit world. And Job did not do this.

3. Now this idea of kissing the hand Poole explains it like this. He wrote, “And when the idols were out of the reach of idolaters, that they could not kiss them, they used to kiss their hands, and, as it were, to throw kisses at them; of which we have many examples in heathen writers.”

Also, I think this idea of kissing the hand carries with it the idea of loving yourself, self gratification, which again Job has not done. You see, the idols people worshiped came from the imagination of their own hearts; they were an extension of them! And Paul warned Timothy that in the last days men will be lovers of self and that is what we see today. Self has become a virtue in the church today and it is to be built up because we have such a low self esteem.

If that were true why in the world would Jesus tell us, “**. . . ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 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?’**” Matthew 16:24-26.

Jesus is speaking about the cost of discipleship. First, you must deny a life of self-centeredness. Then you must put to death those things that hinder your relationship with Him, identifying with His suffering and death. And lastly, you must willingly and obediently follow after Him. You see, there is always death before glory, even in this life. And you need to remember that you can't follow Jesus from a distance, you will deny Him if you try. Stay close to Him and feed the spirit! In fact, don't feed the flesh but crucify it with all its passions that want to bring you deny.

#### VERSES 29-34

1. Job continues to make his case of his innocence by saying that he cared even for his enemies! Again, this is a New Testament idea. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:43-48, **“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”**

First of all the Bible never tells us in the Old Testament to love our friends and hate our enemies. We may hate what they are doing, but we are not to hate them. The Jewish religious leaders got that wrong. And Jesus is saying that we are to love our enemies, it is the mark of a Christian. And this love that Jesus is speaking of is **AGAPE** love or that sacrificial love, a love that is given when it is not deserved!

That is not natural; you can't fake this kind of love for long. You see, this kind of love is supernatural, it comes from God. And think about this for a minute. How many times are we ready to rejoice when others fail? How many times are we ready to say, "I told you so!" when others stumble. That is not the heart of Jesus and it should not be what flows from our heart either! Just as God's love flows to us and we certainly don't deserve it, that same love is to flow from us and touch the lives of others!

2. Now if you struggle with this, if you are like James and John, ready to call fire down from heaven to destroy the wicked, then I think the solution is as simple and yet as hard as this. You see, Job is saying that he has not cursed his enemies, how did he do that? Maybe because he was praying for them! It is hard to curse those you are praying for! It is as Jesus said, **"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."** Matthew 5:44.

3. Job lived his life in the open for all to see. He did not try to hide his sin as Adam did. After Adam and Eve sinned they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves and as they heard the sound of God walking in the garden, they hid themselves. And God called to them, not because He didn't know where they were, but because He wanted Adam to confess his sin, what he had done. You see, their fellowship was broken and God was trying to restore it. He does the same with us. He wants us to bring our sins before Him, to confess them so we are aware of what we did and will not grow accustomed to it.

#### VERSES 35-37

1. Job has been going on about how righteous he was, how moral he was, that he was a good man and no one wants to listen and thus, he just breaks it off and now makes this final and dramatic appeal to be heard before God! And Job was really confused at this point because we see him once again see God as the accuser, “**my Prosecutor**” who was coming after him! Obviously that is wrong, God is not his accuser but Satan was and Job did not see this. Let me show you what I mean.

In Revelation 12:7-12 we are told, **“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the *accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.*”**

Did you see that? Satan is our accuser not God. May we not forget that!

But there is more. You see, we are told that Jesus, God the Son is our Advocate in I John 2:1-2, **“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”**

John is telling us that when we do sin, and we all do, we have an Advocate with the Father, a defense attorney, Jesus Christ! The Greek word for **“advocate”** is PARAKLETOS, which means “one who speaks . . . in our defense.”



Now when I think of a defense attorney I see someone who manipulates the truth to get his client freedom. But if Jesus did that, He would not be righteous. Then how does Jesus defend us, how does He refute the accusations that Satan brings against us? (Revelation 12:10). Because our advocate has become our propitiation or atonement for our sins!

You see, God became sin for us; He paid in full the penalty for our sins, enduring the wrath of God that was due us! Thus, Jesus does not defend us by manipulating the evidence because we are guilty before God. What He does do is say that our penalty was paid in full by Him, and He can show the scars to prove it, case closed! What is interesting to me is when they were translating the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek, back around 250 BC, the Greek word they used for Mercy Seat is the same Greek word that John uses for propitiation, HILASMOS!

In other words, on the Day of Atonement, when the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies and poured out the blood upon the Mercy Seat to atone for the sins of the nation, Jesus has become our Mercy Seat and it is His blood that was shed to atone completely for our sins! In fact, Paul tells us in Hebrews 7:25, **“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”**

In regards to this word “**propitiation,**” Alford tells us: “The word implies that Christ has, as our sin-offering, reconciled God and us by nothing else but by His voluntary death as a sacrifice: has by this averted God’s wrath from us.” It is as Peter said, “**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.**” I Peter 3:18. You see, sin is no longer a barrier between God and man, if you receive Jesus as your propitiation for your sins! Yes, sin can hinder our fellowship with God, but our salvation is secure in Him! We have an accuser who accuses us before the Father but we also have an Advocate who speaks in our defense and tells the Father that our sins have been paid in full by His shed blood!

2. Now Job speaks of keeping records and God does keep a record for the righteous and the unrighteous. For the righteous they will receive their rewards for their good works at the Bema Seat of Christ. For the unrighteous, their evil deeds will be given back to them in the form of punishment as they are cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity.

#### VERSES 38-40

1. Job concludes by saying if he did do any of these things then let the judgment of God come upon his life by allowing thistles and weeds to destroy his crops. And we have seen very clearly in this chapter that Job is testifying of his on integrity and calling for curses to come upon him if his friends could show that he was a sinner worthy of the judgment of God. It is sad that he had to resort to this, but his friends pushed him and instead of looking up, Job looked outward and lashed out and them and then at God!

2. Next time we will see another man speak, Elihu and he has a lot to say to Job and to the friends of Job about what he has heard so far. And don't think that Elihu believes that Job is innocent, not even close as we will see next time!

3. Let me close with these words from Morgan. He wrote, "At this point, then, we have reached the end of Job's expressions of pain. The end is silence. That is God's opportunity for speech. He often waits until we have said everything: and then, in the silence prepared for such speech, He answers." May we not be talking so much that God can't get a word in. He will wait, and wait, and wait until we come to the end of ourselves but we don't have to wait that long. All we need to do is listen!