

JOB

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Job chapter 32 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Believe it or not Job's friends are done talking or counseling Job with the worthless counsel and I can be grateful for that. Also, Job is finished talking until the Lord speaks with him and again that is not necessarily bad. You see, as you read the words of Job he is a broken man who is trying to understand why all this is happening to him and the condemnation is heavy upon him.

And that truly is the problem. Job feels condemned by God but that is not true. For those that love the Lord there is no more condemnation, that is what Paul said in Romans 8:1, **“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”** Then where is all this condemnation coming from?

It is coming from Satan, he condemns, he beats us up, he causes us to become discouraged and lose hope and-so-on. And yes, he will work through people to condemn others; they are like pawns in his hands. And not only can we be instruments for Satan to use to condemn people, but like it or not, we also listen to the Devil and his condemnation that he spews out upon us. Let's face it, apart from Christ we do deserve all of it, but in Christ He has paid in full the penalty that was due and we are no longer condemned. Thus, don't listen to those lies because God wants to build you up, to restore you, to help you to grow, not condemn you and destroy you!

Now to say that Job and his friends are done talking does not mean we are done with this counseling. You see, standing in the crowd listening to all this was another young man by the name of Elihu and he is going to put his two cents in, and believe me, that is all his counsel is worth, about two cents, as we will see.

As we will see as Elihu is finishing up, there is a storm coming and by the time Elihu is done the Lord is going to speak out of this whirlwind in Job chapter 38. And God will deal with Job personally and He will correct Job's vision of things. He will also correct the error Job's friends who thought they were speaking for God and God says very clearly that they were not! With that said, let's begin reading in Job chapter 32, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word this evening.

JOB 32

VERSES 1-5

1. These guys saw the futility of arguing with Job anymore. Because Job would not admit that he was wrong, that he had sinned, they saw him as self-righteous. For Job, he was not self-righteous but he was righteous because of his faith in God which produced fruit in his life, or good works. So his friends have nothing else to say, praise the Lord for that!

2. During this time of counseling there was a large crowd that had gathered to hear these encounters between Job and his friends and within that crowd was a young man named Elihu. And as Elihu listened to the friends of Job, as he also listened to Job he had some major issues with them.

First of all he saw Job as being self-righteous to the point of putting God down. He was exalting himself instead of the Lord. Job tried to justify his actions, his behavior and thus, God was wrong in what He did to Job. It really sounds familiar, it sounds like what Job's friends were saying.

But this young man Elihu is also mad at Job's friends because they could not find any sin in Job's life and yet they were condemning him for it. A kind of, "If the glove does not fit we must acquit!" mentality. Elihu is not a happy person as Mason points out for us, "Elihu is angry with everybody. He is the classic angry young man, and from the outset what we need to notice about this kind of anger is that it puts him in a class by himself. The fact that he is angry at both sides of the debate separates him from Job, on the one hand, but also from the other three friends."

3. Regarding this man Elihu, Trapp makes these comments that may shed some light of where he came from. In fact we have his genealogy, the only one of all his three friends. Trapp wrote, “The Buzite he is called, either from his progenitor Buz, the son of Nahor, who was the brother of Abraham, and had by Milchah, Huz, his firstborn (of whom some think Job came), and Buz, his brother, Genesis 22:21; or else from his country, the city of Buz, a city of Idumea, Jeremiah 25:23.” Now as we said in our first study, it seems likely that Job lived at the time of Abraham or just shortly before Abraham. We are not sure, but this does shed some light on the timeframe, but we can’t be dogmatic about it.

4. We are also told that Elihu waited until everyone was done talking out of respect. We don’t know how old he was or how old the friends of Job were, but it would seem that there was a large age difference and now that they are done, he will speak. Now that they have run out of gas and have nothing to say, Elihu is going to share what he sees regarding the situation that Job is in. So let’s see what he has to say to Job.

VERSES 6-9

1. Notice how Elihu comes against the wisdom of these men. He says that he was waiting to hear what they had to say out of respect, but after he listened to them, he could not hold back any longer. In fact he was ready to explode, he had to say something because what he was hearing was wrong, it was foolish. That is a man full of pride as we will see!

2. Now Elihu is not completely wrong here. Age does not always mean wisdom. You see, wisdom is given to us by God. It is applying the truths of God that are found in the Word of God to our life.

Listen to what Solomon tells us in Proverbs 2:6-9, **“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.”**

You see, wisdom is the application of the information that you have learned. And it is the Lord who gives to us the knowledge and the wisdom we need to live out our lives. How does He do this? It is done through His Spirit and His Word! Meyer put it like this, “We have been trying to know God by the intellect, by reading the Bible intellectually, by endeavoring to apprehend human systems. There is, however, a deeper and truer method. ‘There is a spirit in man!’ Open your spirit to the divine Spirit as you open a window to the sunny air.”

In other words, as we read God’s Word we need to be open to what the Holy Spirit is showing us. As we live out our lives we need to be open to where the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Elihu rightly recognizes that only the inspiration of the Almighty can give understanding to man. This means that there is only one sure authority, and that is the Word of God opened up to us by the Spirit of God!

VERSES 10-14

1. Now here is the problem for Elihu. He was very frustrated and angry because Job's friends didn't put him in his place the way he thought they should. And as Elihu spoke it seems that Job and his three friends were not exactly happy in what he was saying.

Maybe it was the look on their faces or whatever because Elihu says, "**Therefore I say, 'Listen to me, I also will declare my opinion.'**" He wants to get their attention so he can put his two cents in, and again, that is all it is worth!

2. Isn't that one of the big problems we have today, everyone wants to declare their own opinion? Absolutely it is and let me say this; man's opinion is really worthless. Sadly, that is what we see many times in the church today, we see that pastors, leaders are giving their opinion and thus, we see all kinds of bizarre ideas that are being spoken. Let me say this, like it or not, and it really doesn't matter if you don't like it. The only important opinion, if you want to call it that, is what God has to say in His Word.

What did Jesus say in Matthew 4:4, "**... 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'**" How true that is and may we not be swayed by the world's philosophies, the world's opinions, but may we be built up in the faith by the Word of God!

VERSES 15-22

1. Elihu can't hold his words back any longer, he is ready to burst! Now you think I am long winded, I don't even come close to Elihu. He has spent a whole chapter introducing what he is going to say, his speech. He is building himself up so others would notice it seems. And the problem with that, many times, is that when someone has to introduce himself with a long speech before he gets to the point, they really don't have much to say!

2. It is almost comically what he says in verses 21 and 22, **“Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; Nor let me flatter any man. For I do not know how to flatter, Else my Maker would soon take me away.”** He certainly is not flattering Job or his friends; in fact he is putting them down. But make no mistake about it, Elihu is flattering himself, he is building himself up and he does need to be careful because the Lord will not allow that, He will bring Elihu down! James puts it like this for us, **“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”** James 4:10.

3. Now Elihu is right in this point of not wanting to show partiality to anyone. He does not want to be a respecter of persons. And that is a good thing, for God is not a respecter of persons. In James chapter 2, James is telling us not to respect people because of their wealth or influence on society by placing them up front and the poor in the back of the church. We should treat all people with the same love that Christ has shown us! In this obviously self-flattering introduction to the speech, Elihu has clearly presented himself as smarter, wiser, and having more understanding than any of the four other men with him. Elihu seems painfully unaware of how he sounded and looked. Self-righteousness is like that!

JOB 33

VERSES 1-7

1. Elihu is an amazing man as he can speak so much without saying anything. Look at these first seven verses and you can see a lot of hot air being blown, a lot of words that really are not speaking of the situation that Job was in! Mason picks up on this as he wrote, “Despite all the good that might be said of Elihu, the fact remains that he really is an astonishingly pompous little windbag. He takes the entire first chapter, for example, plus portions of the second, simply to clear his throat and announce that he has something to say.”

2. Now you may think that is unfair or it is not correct but let me show you where he is standing in all this. Remember back in Job 9:33 where Job said, “**Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.**” Well here comes Elihu saying that he is that man who can stand in the gap and bring Job and God together. Job doesn’t have to fear because Elihu is here, and you thought I was going to say Underdog! I think you can clearly see that Elihu is thinking a little too highly of himself here.

Again Mason tells us, “It is obvious that Elihu does have some glaring faults: he talks too much; he repeats himself; he is enormously conceited. Worst of all, like the other friends, he seriously misreads Job’s problem as being one of unrepented sin, and as a result he condemns a righteous man.”

3. Another issue of pride in Elihu’s life is seen in what he says in verse 7. We have already seen that Job fears God, respects the Lord and here comes Elihu and he wants Job not to worry because he will not come down too hard on him. What a nice guy, he is going to be gentle with Job while God it would seem has been harsh!

4. Let me make one more point here and it is important. People so often want to speak for God and there is nothing wrong with that unless they speak outside of what God has said. If they add to or take away from God's Word they are wrong. Listen carefully to what Peter tells us in I Peter 4:10-11, **“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”**

How are we to speak? We are to speak with the **“oracles of God”** or according to the Word of God. I wish every church, every seminary, every Christian, when they counsel people, when they speak they would listen to what Peter has said here. J. Vernon McGee tells us this,

After I had been speaking in the San Francisco Bay area, a man said to me, “You sound very dogmatic.” I said, “Yes, I'm glad it got through to you that I am dogmatic.” “Well,” he said, “there are other ways of looking at the Bible.” I discovered that he was a legalist. He said, “Have you ever thought that there might be another explanation?” I told him, “Yes. There was a time when I thought there were several ways a man could come to God. But after many years of study I have come to the conclusion that the way God saves is by grace, and I am dogmatic about it.

I am dogmatic about quite a few things in the Word of God - because the Word of God is dogmatic. I am dogmatic about the deity of Jesus Christ, that He is the Son of God. I am dogmatic about the fact that He is virgin born, that He performed miracles, that He died a substitutionary death, that He rose bodily from the grave, that He ascended to heaven, that He is seated today at God's right hand, that He is the living Christ right now, and that He is coming back someday. Brother, I am dogmatic!"

The fellow looked at me and said, "Then I guess there is no use in my talking with you." I said, "If you have a different viewpoint, you would be wasting your time, I can assure you." My friend, let me say it as Peter said it, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." Of course there is such a thing as dogmatic ignorance. But the point I am making is that when you are quoting the Bible, if you are not sure it is the Word of God, then you have nothing to say at all. Unbelief is always dumb. It has nothing to say. I don't mean that it doesn't talk - it talks a great deal. But any ministry is powerless, valueless, and fruitless unless a man is speaking as the oracles of God.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible Vol. II, pp. 644-645

VERSES 8-11

1. Elihu starts out by quoting what Job has said. The problem here is Elihu is not quoting Job but he is quoting Zophar and what the others had said about Job and his claim that he was without sin, that he was blameless before God. In Job 11:4 we are told what Zophar said about Job, "**For you have said, 'My doctrine is pure, And I am clean in your eyes.'**" Job never said that and thus, Elihu is bearing a false witness of Job. Not starting out too good and yet he claimed to be wiser than all the others!

2. Now here's the thing. Job was not perfect and he knew that. When he did fail he offered the appropriate sacrifices to atone for his sin. Yes Job did argue that he was a blameless and upright man, a godly man but not perfect. He knew that he was a sinner in the general sense and could not be considered righteous before a holy God! And yet, Elihu is misrepresenting what Job said. May we be careful in how we speak of others, and how we represent them to other people! We don't want to bear a false witness of another.

VERSES 12-18

1. First of all is Elihu saying anything that is different from Job's friends and what they said to Job? Absolutely not, it is Job's sin that has brought this upon him! Secondly, is Elihu saying anything that is new or earth shattering? Absolutely not, God is greater than man and that is so obvious and yet Elihu says it with such pride in his heart.

2. Now here's the thing, Elihu is right in regards to this. God does not have to answer to man. Isaiah 64:8 we are told, "**But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.**" We, being a lump of clay in the hands of the Master Potter, how can we argue or dispute with what He is doing, which is forming us into a vessel of honor for His use.

Where Job and his friends got it wrong is that they saw what was happening in Job's life as a consequence for his sin and it wasn't. God, the Master Potter was fashioning Job, the clay, into a vessel of honor and no one saw it because they let their own preconceived ideas cloud the picture of what God was doing! A good lesson for us to learn, He is the Potter and we are the clay and He is working in us, molding and shaping our lives to be vessels of honor for His use as I have said!

3. Now in verses 14 through 18 Elihu is speaking of how God can speak to us in many different ways, like dreams to keep us on track, to keep us from going in the wrong direction. Yes, God speaks to us in many ways, even when we are asleep He puts thoughts in our mind. Why? Well, just like Elihu had said, to keep us on track, to keep us from destruction, to keep us from doing things that will only bring pain and hurt into our lives because He loves us. In saying that please understand this. First of all God primarily speaks to us through His Word. Secondly, God will never contradict His Word I don't care who you are. How do I know that? Because of what the Psalmist said in Psalm 138:2, **"I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name."** You see, if you can't trust God's Word or if He changes His mind and then says things that go contrary to His Word, then His name is worthless. And keep in mind that all that God is you can sum up in His name. So please don't tell me that God is bigger than His Word and He can do whatever He wants. Yes it is true but He won't because He holds His Word above His name, all that He is!

VERSES 19-28

1. As I have said before and as we have seen over the last several weeks, Job's three friends maintained that the things happening to Job were a direct result of sin in his life. Elihu is saying that God has brought this upon Job because He is chastening Job to get him to confess his sin and get back on track. In other words, Elihu was saying to Job, "God spoke to you in your sufferings, to save your soul from death." Closer to the truth but again, Job has not sinned.

2. We have all heard of movie sequels, usually a great original movie that made lots of money and they make another one and it is not so good. I see Elihu as a sequel to what Job's friends have already said, and it is not any better. Listen again to what is said in verses 27 and 28 because it is very clear in what Elihu is saying, even though some feel Elihu was not saying that Job was a sinner but that these things happen to keep a person on track. I don't see it that way. We are told, "**Then he looks at men and says, 'I have sinned, and perverted what was right, And it did not profit me.' He will redeem his soul from going down to the Pit, And his life shall see the light.**" Job 33:27-28.

Now that truly is what sinful man needs to do, to repent of his sin before God and ask Jesus to be His Lord and Savior, but that is not the issue here. And as you look at what Elihu says will happen in Job's life if he does repent, you once again see the same message as Job's three friends gave him.

- He would receive God's grace, "**He is gracious to him.**"
- He would be rescued from destruction, "**Deliver him from going down to the Pit.**"

- He would be healed, **“His flesh shall be young like a child’s.”**
- He would see his relationship with God restored, **“He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, He shall see His face with joy.”**
- He will repent before men, **“He looks at men and says, ‘I have sinned.’”**

And thus, we see the same message as Job’s three friends, “Job, the problem is that you are a sinner and are blaming God. If you would give glory to God and repent, everything would get better.”

VERSES 29-33

1. Elihu is not wrong in saying that God gives us many chances to get right with Him. If He only gave us 2 or 3 chances we all would be in trouble. But again, that is not the heart of the matter here with Job. And yes, Elihu is trying to be a friend to Job, telling him that he is only looking out for Job’s best interests and yet, it seems that Elihu is more interested in hearing himself talk.

And since Job really was not interested in repenting for something he did not do, Elihu is going to continue with his lecture. And maybe Job rolled his eyes or looked down in disgust, and thus, Elihu is pleading with Job to listen to what he has to say, not to tune him out! And you can see the pride in this man Elihu for in verse 33 we are told, **“If not, listen to me; Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom.”** Job 33:33.

That seems to me like a very proud statement by Elihu, especially knowing the wisdom that Job had. Not that we all can’t learn from others, but it seems very bold on Elihu’s part to say these things.

JOB 34**VERSES 1-9**

1. Elihu wants not only Job but these “**wise men**” or these friends of Job to take in his words and taste them just as they would food! But again, this is nothing new for Job or his friends. They have already spoken these things and Job has already heard them but he does put a little twist upon it.

What Elihu is doing is playing this good cop, bad cop routine for Job. You see, Job’s three friends blasted Job for hiding some sin. Now Elihu comes in, being the good cop you might say, and he is saying that Job has taken all this garbage from these other guys, how these guys gave Job such a hard time, but he is not going to do the same. And what he is doing is trying to get Job to confess his errors and get right with God by using a different approach. And yes, Job knew that the wicked would be punished. He did know there was a profit in doing good, but Elihu again is misrepresenting what Job had to say and he was misrepresenting what the Lord was doing in the life of Job!

VERSES 10-15

1. Here we see Elihu try to defend God and think about that folk's. Does God need us to defend Him? No, God does not need us to defend Him. He is very secure in His position. We also spend far too much time defending our sword instead of using it. Can you imagine going into battle and telling the enemy as you approached him, "This is the finest sword around. There is nothing that can even come close to it! It is a double-edged sword made of rust proof material with a life time guarantee! And I got it for only \$19.95!"

At this point in the conversation your guarantee would be over because you would be dead! Listen carefully to what Peter tells us as he admonishes us to "**... sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.**" I Peter 3:15-16.

Think about it, do you talk about how strong and powerful a lion is or do you just let him out of the cage and let him show them how strong and powerful he is? Just let him out of the cage!

2. And Elihu says something that is very important. God is not unrighteous, He is not wicked, and everything He does is right and good. Remember what Paul said in Romans 9:14, "**What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!**" God can not do evil, He can not sin. He is holy, He is righteous, and that will never change. If you lose that perspective your picture of God will become distorted!

3. Elihu also tells us that God holds us together and gives us the very breath we breathe. Colossians 1:16-17 says, **“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”**

Please understand that Jesus is not part of creation, He is not a creation, but the Creator and He not only created *ALL* things but by Him all things **“consist”** or are held together by Him. There is Coulomb’s Law of Electricity that states that like charges repel each other. The atom is made up of protons in its nucleus and they are like charges.

Thus, they should repel each other, blow the atom apart, but they don’t, why is that? Scientists don’t know the answer, they have made many speculations and they do know that something is holding them together, like “atomic glue” but they are not sure what that is. I know the answer! Maybe they will give to me the Nobel Prize for science for this, what do you think? I doubt it because the answer is that Jesus is holding them together and they don’t accept Jesus, they don’t believe in God and thus, it is atomic glue for now that is holding everything together!

Now let me ask you this. Do you know what is going to happen when Jesus lets go? We don't have to guess because Peter tells us in II Peter 3:10-13, "**But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**" An atomic explosion!

Not only that, but please understand that God is not there for us, but we were created for His good pleasure. All things were created for Him or as John tells us in Revelation 4:11, and this is from the King James Version, "**Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**"

And so Elihu is right, apart from God we all would perish, we would return to the dust, there would be nothing. But our God is so gracious and merciful that He keeps calling people to come to Him, He does not give up, even at the last hour of a person's life. That is the God we worship, the One who created us for His good pleasure and our joy is found in serving Him!

4. The problem for Elihu is that he is caught up in the same logic, the same reasoning as Job's friends and it was wrong. But again, that won't stop him from speaking as we can see!

VERSES 16-20

1. Do you see what Elihu is accusing Job here? He is basically saying, "Job, you wouldn't come across this brashly toward a king or a prince. How dare you, then, be this brash in accusing God!" You see, he is accusing Job of turning the tables and making God unjust in His dealings with Job, and that Job was lifting himself up. And yes, Job did honor those in high positions, like kings or leaders, and yet when it came to God, Elihu said that he puts Him down. And Job did struggle with why this was happening to him, but he never cursed God.

We need to understand that Job was hurting and a lot of what was said, even though it was wrong, was born out of that pain. Thus, instead of blasting Job for this sin that they could not find in his life, they needed to comfort Job and help him have a correct perspective of God! You see, the idea was restoration for Job and they were condemning him!

2. Elihu is correct in stating that God raises people up and He brings them down. He is in control. He is sovereign. That is absolutely true and the only reason I can rejoice in that is because I know that He is holy, He is righteous, He is just, He is good, He is a God who loves me more than I will ever know. If I didn't know that, I would be terrified of what might happen to me! You see, perspective is everything and yet, when we go through tough times what happens to many people is that they lose their perspective of God! If you are there right now, then get back into the Word of God, in fellowship with God and other believers so that you can have that correct perspective of God once again!

VERSES 21-30

1. Elihu is continuing on with this theme of God's perfect justice and he is not wrong, it just did not apply to what Job was going through and that was the big problem. And here in these verses he is emphasizing that God sees everything, nothing is hidden from His sight. That is exactly 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 see, not only does God's Word pierce our lives, but His eyes also pierce our lives as well. He sees everything we are doing and saying and nothing gets by Him without Him being aware!

Let's look at this for a minute. First of all Paul tells us that the Word of God is living, it is not dead, it is not boring. God's Word is powerful, it is energizing, it will accomplish in our lives what God wants it to. The Word of God is like a surgical instrument, like a scalpel that can pierce or penetrate right through to the inner man, our soul and spirit. As it does it pierces through to the joints or how we walk, it will have an impact on our actions.

Also, it goes right down to the marrow or the place that the red blood cells are produced; our very lives and thus it will be reflected in how we manifest things outwardly because what takes place on the inside will overflow to the outside.

Now here's the thing. Who can know what is in our heart? Only God can as Jeremiah 17:9-10 tells us, **“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”**

Why are heart issues not dealt with today? Because the Word of God is not being applied to people's lives and we can put on a good show outwardly but inwardly, what God sees is a mess. We need to give it to Him; we need to be in the Word of God allowing the Spirit of God to show us what is in our heart so we can get rid of it!

Secondly we are told that nothing is hidden from His sight, He sees everything. John tells us in I John 3:1-3, **“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”**

In other words, as we look to Jesus, as we see His return, on knowing that He sees all that we do, we should live lives that are pleasing to Him. Folks, you can't fool God. I have been fooled over the years by people and I am sure you have too, but God knows not only a persons heart, but the motives behind what he is doing, the motives of his heart. Everything is open to Him to see and thus, allow God's Word to work in you to purge you of these things, to refine you in the Refiners fire so that as the Lord looks at your life He sees His reflection just as the refiner sees his reflection in the purified gold!

VERSES 31-33

1. Here again we see Elihu basically say to Job, “Job, just confess your sin and get right with God! Don't be silent any longer!” He also, in a rhetorical way tells Job, “Job, should God really do things the way you want Him to?” Again, these are not comforting words for Job and they are not correct. Yes, theologically they were right, but not in the application part and thus, they were meaningless in this situation!

2. Now keep in mind that Elihu was speaking of Job in verse 31 when he used the word “**anyone**” and that thought just continued on. Notice what he was saying to Job. He was telling Job that . . .

- He should have manfully taken the *chastening*.
- He should have promised to *offend no more*, therefore admitting his previous guilt.
- He should have humbly submitted, asking God to *teach* him.

VERSES 34-37

1. Notice what Elihu is saying here. He wants God to give it to Job because Job refuses to come clean before God. He is telling Job that others are talking and saying that Job is guilty before God, that his wisdom is false. They are agreeing with Elihu. Is that true, where others doing this? They might have been but that does not make them right. We tend to think that majority rules and if there are large enough numbers of people that agree with me then I am right. That is foolish. The only reason you are right is because God has said it in His Word and you are repeating what He is saying. But don't misquote God or misuse God's Word with people, you are representing Him!

2. Now look at what Elihu is doing. He is accusing Job of not only having sin, but refusing to confess that sin and thus rebelling against God's chastisement. And understand that these confrontations were loud, emotional, and very animated, with the clapping of hands and-so-on.

Let's think about this for a minute. Remember what Elihu has said to Job. He told Job that he was going to be kind; he was not going to treat Job like his friends did! "Hey Elihu, what has gotten into you? Everything you said that you were going to be you are doing the exact opposite. Now you want me tried in the counsels of God and you want the book thrown at me. If that is your compassion, forget about it!"

I think that is true of us at times. We want to help people and we tell them we are going to be kind to them, compassionate to them and then we blast them, "Because this is going to hurt us more than it will hurt them!" Garbage! Look at the love, the compassion that the Lord has shown you and He wants you to show that same compassion towards others. Clarke picks up on this harshness of Elihu as he wrote, "This is a very harsh wish: but the whole chapter is in the same spirit; nearly destitute of mildness and compassion. Who could suppose that such arguings could come out of the mouth of the loving Saviour of mankind?"

The fact of the matter is that the Lord would never speak to us like that. He is gracious and merciful and these men were not. As I have said, condemnation does not come from the Lord towards those who love Him but it comes from Satan. Remember what Jesus said, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 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. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”** John 3:16-21.

You see, we don't need condemnation because we are already condemned outside of Christ and thus, we need salvation. And that is what Jesus has brought to us, a salvation that is only found in Him. Now you can reject that gift, you can love the darkness rather than the light and if you do, then you remain condemned before God but the choice is yours! Won't you come to Jesus and receive the gift of life that He has for you? His arms are open wide, that is how much He loves you!