

The Book of Job
Conversations at the Garbage Dump: Round 3 (Elihu)
Job 32-37 (page 386)

Sunday, July 1, 2012

Frank Mascaro

Sound counsel is not the product of a g e but of spiritual w i s d o m (Job 32:1-33:7; 1 Timothy 4:12)

When offering counsel to others we should...

- Beware of speaking in a n g e r (32:1-5; Eph 4:26)
- Be r e s p e c t f u l (32:6-12a; Ecc 4:13)
- Be sure that your b u r d e n is from the L o r d (32:12b-20; Jer 20:9)
- Don't f l a t t e r, but be s i n c e r e (32:21-34:3; 2 Cor 1:12)

Suffering can lead us to a p p r e c i a t e:

- God's m e r c y (33:14-33)
 - God r e v e a l s our sin...
 - √ through His W o r d (33:13-18; Heb 4:12)
 - √ through s u f f e r i n g (33:19-22; Psalm 119:67-68, 71)
- God's g r e a t n e s s (36:1-37:24)
 - Suffering brings me to s u b m i s s i o n to G o d (36:5-16; James 4:10)
 - God's s o v e r e i g n t y h u m b l e s me (37:1-24)

Take it home...

Do you have any criteria for assessing those to whom you go to get counsel or advice? Character? Consistency? Knowledge of God's Word? How do you evaluate *wisdom in those you seek out* for help? _____

Consider this statement: *When we finally embrace our suffering and see it as God's way of speaking to us, instead of just trying to pray it away, God begins to use our pain to heal us of our primary problem of pride and self-reliance.*

Do you agree with that? Why or why not? How does that relate to what we have seen in the statements from Elihu this morning? _____

Take a half-hour and find a quiet place and open your Bible to the Psalms and as you read, begin to list all of the descriptions of God's power and majesty. How does that affect your attitude toward God? Toward your situation? _____

An Overview of the Book of Job

The Character of Job (1:1-5)
The Calamities of Job (1:6-2:10)
The Comforters of Job (2:11-13)

Job's Complaint (3:1-26)

Dialogue/Dispute: Round 1
(4:14-14:22)

Eliphaz's speech (4-5)
 Job's response (6-7)
 Bildad's speech (8)
 Job's response (9-10)
 Zophar's speech (11)
 Job's response (12-14)

Dialogue/Dispute: Round 2
(15:1-21:34)

Eliphaz's second speech (15)
 Job's response (16-17)
 Bildad's second speech (18)
 Job's response (19)
 Zophar's second speech (20)
 Job's response (21)

Dialogue/Dispute: Round 3
(22:1-31:40)

Eliphaz's third speech (22)
 Job's reply (23-24)
 Bildad's third speech (25)
 Job's response (26-31)

Elihu's speeches (32-37)

God's Confrontation (38-42:6)

God's first speech (38:1-40:2)
 Job's response (40:3-5)
 God's second speech (40:6-41:34)
 Job's response (42:1-6)

Job and His Friends (42:7-17)

God vindicates Job (42:7-9)
 God restores Job's fortunes (42:10-17)

A Profile of Job's Four Friends

	Eliphaz	Bildad	Zophar	Elihu
Distinctive:	Theologian, Pragmatist	Historian, Legalist	Moralist, Dogmatist	Theological Intellectual
Relies on:	Experience	Tradition	Assumption	Education
Voice of:	Philosophy	History	Orthodoxy	Logic
Key Phrase:	"I have seen..."	"Ask the former generations..."	"Know this..."	"Listen to me..."
Argument:	"If you sin, you suffer..."	"You MUST be sinning since you suffer..."	"You ARE sinning since you suffer..."	"Suffering may be to PURIFY and INSTRUCT..."
Advice to Job:	"ONLY the wicked suffer"	"The wicked ALWAYS suffer"	"The wicked are SHORT-LIVED"	"HUMBLE yourself before God"
Meaning of Name:	"God dispenses"	"Contention"	"Rough" of "Chirper"	"He is my God"