

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

June 6, 2010

Don't Doubt the Fairness of God

Focal Passage:

Job 38:1-7; 40:1-14; 42:1-6

Cross References: Job 38-42; Jeremiah 29:11; Acts 13:38=39; Romans 5:6-8; James 1:13

Central Idea: God rebuked Job for questioning His righteousness, and Job repented of His doubting. In the end, Job was vindicated and blessed and came to know the Lord more intimately.

Lesson Idea: Even if we don't understand the situations that come in our lives, we should never question the righteousness or fairness of God. We should seek to know the Lord better in the midst of our trials.

Historical Context: See insert from last week with intro to Job from *Halley's Bible Handbook* pp. 309-311.

In chapters 4-26 Job's three friends shared their ideas about why Job was suffering and basically accused him of some wrong-doing. Throughout the book Job defended his righteousness which led to him questioning God's fairness. A fourth man named Elihu defended God's honor, and then in chapter 38, God Himself confronts Job and his friends to challenge their right to question His goodness. The final chapters feature a conversation between God and Job where God helps Job to understand the vast gulf that exists between what God can do and know versus what mere men are able to do and know.

Bible in a Year Daily Readings

May 16-23, 2010

May 30 Job 13 - 16

May 31 Job 17 - 20

Jun 1 Job 21 - 24

Jun 2 Job 25 - 30

Jun 3 Job 31 - 34

Jun 4 Job 35 - 38

Jun 5 Job 39 - 42

Jun 6 Psalms 1 - 8

Highlights of the Week:

Job 4-26: Questionable counsel

Job 27-31: Job asserts his innocence

Job 32-37: Elihu speaks for God

Job 38-41: God rebukes Job

Job 42: Confession and restoration

Psalm 1: Marks of a righteous person

Psalm 4: Peace

Psalm 8: What is man?

Job 38:1-7

God Speaks Now to Job

31 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,
2 "Who is this that darkens counsel
By words without knowledge?
3 "Now gird up your loins like a man,
And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!
4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding,
5 Who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it?
6 "On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone,
7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

DISCUSSION:

As we've been reading through the Bible, we've seen God speak to people in many different ways. Why do you think that God chose to speak to Job from a whirlwind?

God begins His address to Job with rhetorical questions that emphasize His transcendence and power compared to Job and his friends.

- In vs 2-7 what are some of the things that God points out to emphasize the difference between how great He is and how small Job and all of mankind are?
- Glance through the rest of chapter 38 and all of chapter 39 and note other things that God has done or knows that men cannot.

In vs 4-7 God talked about the beginning of creation when He "laid the foundation of the earth..." and "...all the sons of God shouted for joy." The "sons of God" refer to the angels whom God created before he created man.

- How do these verses emphasize the eternal nature of God?
- What is the implication of these verses concerning Job's ability to understand God, much less criticize Him?

How would you respond if God asked you these same questions?

Job 40:1-14

Job: What Can I Say?

1 Then the Lord said to Job,
2 "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it."
3 Then Job answered the Lord and said,
4 "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth.
5 "Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add no more."

God Questions Job

6 Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm, and said,
7 "Now gird up your loins like a man;
I will ask you, and you instruct Me.
8 "Will you really annul My judgment?
Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?
9 "Or do you have an arm like God, And can you thunder with a voice like His?
10 "Adorn yourself with eminence and dignity; And clothe yourself with honor and majesty.
11 "Pour out the overflowings of your anger; And look on everyone who is proud, and make him low.
12 "Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him; And tread down the wicked where they stand.
13 "Hide them in the dust together; Bind them in the hidden place.
14 "Then I will also confess to you, That your own right hand can save you.

DISCUSSION:

After two chapters of God questioning Job's ability to know how to control the many facets of God's intricate creation, what does God call Job in vs 2 and what does He accuse Job of doing?

How does Job respond in vs 3-5?

At what times are people tempted to think God is unfair?

- Read James 1:13. What does this verse teach about God's goodness?

NOTE: If you are ever tempted to bad-mouth God, remember to do what Job did in vs 4 "lay my hand on my mouth." Though God often lets his children ask Him questions about life and circumstances, we should never question His goodness or love.

God invites Job to "instruct" Him, if he thinks God's judgment is bad.

- In vs 8 what reason does God accuse Job of having for condemning the Lord?
- What causes people to try to justify themselves?
- What is the only way someone can truly be justified (see Acts 13:38-39)?

In vs 9-14 what are some of the traits that God asked Job if he possessed that actually describe God?

- According to vs 11-13 what is one of the ways that God actually uses anger righteously?

Vs 14 emphasizes the fact that if we could save ourselves, we would have no need for God and Jesus would have died in vain. Read Romans 5:6-8 and thank the Lord Jesus for dying for you while you were "powerless."

Job 42:1-6

Job's Confession

42:1 Then Job answered the Lord, and said, 2 "I know that Thou canst do all things, And that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted.

3 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'

"Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

4 'Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask Thee, and do Thou instruct me.'

5 "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees Thee;

6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes."

DISCUSSION:

In the rest of chapter 40 and 41 God continued to emphasize His great power. Finally in chapter 42 Job came to understand the greatness of God and confessed his own ignorance.

- What are some truths that Job learned about God from his experiences?
- What are some of the life lessons you have learned in the midst of hardships?

In vs 3 what reason did Job give for the things he did not know or understand?

- What are some ways that God has used bad situations to show something wonderful to you or someone you know?

In vs 5 Job implies that he has developed a more intimate relationship with God through his ordeal.

- Are you willing to suffer if it will bring you closer to the Lord? Why or why not?

What does Job do in vs 6 that is very important in receiving God's forgiveness?

In the rest of chapter 42 God tells Job's friends that they would need to offer sacrifices in worship to God and ask Job to pray for them before He would forgive them.

- Why do you think God demanded this of them?
- God still uses His followers to intercede for others. How active are you in witnessing to your family, friends, and coworkers and how often do you pray for them?

APPLICATION:

In the end of chapter 42 God restored Job's wealth and blessed him with more sons and daughters. He still had the heartaches of the past, but God gave him a renewed hope and faith. In Jeremiah 29:11 God promise His people that He knows the plans He has for us, *"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

- How does your life reflect that you trust the plans that God has for your life?

Last week we saw that Job did not know why he was suffering. His friends thought it was because he had done evil. They did not know that God was allowing him to suffer to both strengthen him and to weaken Satan. And though Job was correct in maintaining that he had not sinned to cause the suffering, he made the mistake of questioning whether God was fair.

- How can you ask God questions without questioning His fairness or His purposes?

Follow-up questions from last week:

- When times of suffering come in your life, how can you grow closer to the Lord and not drift away from Him?
- How can the story of Job encourage you in your daily walk with the Lord?

Note: The scriptures printed in this lesson come from the New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The New American Standard Bible. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1986.

**PRAY FOR
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**



This week at Faith

June 7-11

from 9 am til Noon

For kids from

4 years old through 6th Grade

Invite your friends and neighbors!

