

Sermon Notes for December 31, 2006 A.M.

**Morning: "Letting God Be God"** Job 1:20-22, Job 38-42; Galatians 6:14  
(Pew Bible pages 451, 476, 1037)

Every book in Holy Scripture is unique and indispensable to our growth in Christ. The book of Job should be read regularly by the believer as it is indispensable to the Christian life. Job faces the thorny question, "Why do righteous people suffer?" Job was a godly man of his day (Job 1:1), yet other than the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross, Job suffered more than any other man in human history. In a brief time, Job lost all ten children to death, all his possessions, his personal health, and his wife's love and loyalty.

The question is always, "Why?!" There are many **partial** answers—Satanic attack, God's discipline, growth through suffering, or "all's well that ends well" type answers. None of these are completely satisfactory. Trite answers to such a serious question are hurtful to the sufferer. On top of everything else, Job had three "friends" whose trite and untrue answers added to Job's pain.

The best response was Job's initial action . . . "Job fell down and **worshipped**, and said, ". . . The Lord gave (**Grace**) and the Lord hath taken away (**Grief**), blessed be the name of the Lord (**Glory**)." **Worship** is the only answer that satisfies. **Worship** means you must let God be God. You cannot explain Him. You can only worship Him. He is God. Give Him glory and worship. That is where healing begins. Job's life did end well—he had twice as much as he had before. (Job 42:10, 12) His healing began with worship.

The other answer that satisfies is found at the Cross. The only truly righteous person who ever lived, the Lord Jesus Christ, suffered more than any man . . . and for someone else's sins! He did not complain. He said, "Not My will, but Thine be done." You are reaching maturity in Christ when your prayer in the face of life's trials is, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

Sooner or later you and I will have a "Job" experience, a time when there are no answers—only God. The response is to worship—to let God be God and to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for the Cross.

Someone has well said, "There are three kinds of people—those with a big problem, those who just finished with a big problem, or those who are about to have a big problem." Jesus agreed when He said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God . . . sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Matthew 6:33-34 The best way to prepare your heart for the "Job" experience is to learn to let God be God in your life today.

Job 38-42 is the record of God speaking from Heaven to Job and his friends. God makes no attempt to explain why He allowed Job to be afflicted. He says, in love, "I am God. Let Me be God. Trust Me, for I cannot make a mistake in your life!" God gives us this counsel from His Word. God is too wise to make a mistake, and He is too good to be unkind."

#### I. What you need to **Know**—Job 38-39

God gives us a lesson in Creation in Job 38-39! Only God can create, so trust Him as one of His creatures!

- Your ignorance and His **wisdom**—Job 38:1-5
- Your limitations and His **eternity**—Job 38:4
- Your weakness and His **power**—Job 38:5-7

II. What you need to **Admit**— Job 40-41

- That you are a **sinner**— Job 40:3-5
- That you will stand in **judgment** before God— Job 40:1-2, 6-7
- That you need a **Redeemer**— Job 19:25

III. What you need to **Believe** – Job 42

- That you need to **repent**— Job 42:6
- That you need to **forgive**— Job 42:10
- That you need to **rejoice**— Job 42:11-17