

### ***Job 9.27-35—Discouraged & Afraid***

- Introduction: Job 5.8; 8.5
- Job's problem is not so much the loss of his possessions as the loss of the sense of God's favor, all the marks of God's friendship.
- So when his friends tell him to simply seek God, it's nowhere near as simple for Job as they make it out to be. How do you seek a God you're convinced is angry at you? a God whose ways baffle you?

#### **What's the point!? vv.27-31**

- I. *What's the point of trying to be cheerful when I know it won't change a thing!?*
  - A. Job could dare to hope that things are going to get better, and he could try to cheer himself up, but what's the point when God's not done afflicting him?
  - B. Job's lost all confidence in God's intention to do him good.
- II. *What's the point of ripping my insides apart looking for a sin that I know isn't there!?*
  - A. Job doesn't know why God's turned on him; but he knows it's not for any allowed sin in his life—despite his friends' insistence.
  - B. Job's problem isn't something he's done and now needs to set right. Rather, it's something God's doing, something Job doesn't understand and can't explain.

#### **I need an arbiter! vv.32-35**

- I. The problem Job has with his friends' advice to seek God is that God and Job are simply not on par with one another.
  - A. The crux of the matter comes out at last in v.32 and then gives way to the heart-cry of v.33
  - B. To see just how critical an arbiter is for Job, look at vv.34-35 where Job says he's terrified of God! How is this the same man introduced to us in Job 1.8?
  - C. This is truly the valley of the shadow of death for Job.

#### **Applications**

- I. See what an incomparable thing the loss of the sense of God's favor is to a genuine believer! Pss 13.1; 79.5; 89.46; 90.13; 80.3, 7, 19
- II. If you're in a place similar to Job's:
  - A. Don't be so hard on your brethren.
    1. As hard as it is for you to put your feelings and sorrows into words it's just as hard for others to put themselves in your shoes. So be gracious and thankful.
    2. Sorrow is by nature a lonely place because, in part, that's the whole point: getting you alone with yourself and God. So don't miss the point of your loneliness.
  - B. Don't be afraid to be honest with yourself and with God.
    1. Whatever you're going to get out of your suffering, it all depends on your walking through it with honesty.
    2. So put your heart where your mouth is and speak truthfully with God, because no real work gets done until you do.
  - C. Don't let your sorrow cloud your judgment of God.
    1. Job lived in a very dark time in the history of redemption. But you live in a time of great light! cf. 1Cor 10.11
    2. See that you make good use of what you know about God and His ways and don't let your sorrow cloud your judgment of Him, Ezk 36.9; Heb 12.6; Heb 13.5-6; Isa 41.10
    3. Put your faith to work and trust more in what God says than in what you feel or see.
- III. Jesus Christ is the answer to Job's cry in v.33
  - A. He's the mediator of our salvation (1Tim 2.5) but He's also the arbiter to make sense of all our suffering.
    1. 1Cor 15.3, God's never punishing for our sins.
    2. Rom 15.9, God never deals with us in anger or wrath.
    3. Heb 2.11-14, our sufferings always have a purpose—none of our trials is pointless.
    4. Lam 3.22, whatever God does with us, it's always congruent with His love for us.
  - B. Go to Jesus and let Him make sense of your suffering and walk with you through it—because He's the arbiter, the reconciler of God to man and the revealer of God's heart to sufferers. Look to Him and be patient under the cross.