

Job 10.1-2—Turning to God

Job's lament

- I. *I loathe my life. My soul is weary of my life* (KJV).
 - A. Job's body is so afflicted that his soul wearies of inhabiting it any longer, cf. 7.5, 15
 - B. He gets no relief, day or night, cf. 7.3-4
 - C. He's sick of living and longs for death, cf. vv.20-22

Job's resolve

- I. Job will be the first to agree that he shouldn't complain (cp. Ps 39.9; Pr 10.19; Zech 2.13)
 - A. But against his better mind, he's resolved to speak and vent his complaint.
 - B. His bitterness of soul is so great that he can't keep it in. He saw no other way of relief than to let it out.
- II. Job's friends were so critical of his words that he was wary of speaking to them. But he knew he could speak freely to God. So he bare his soul to God, even if in sore bitterness, because he knew that God knew his heart and would not be so critical of his every word as his friends had been.

Job's caveat

- I. Job wanted to speak what was right. He wanted to speak reverently of God. He wanted to speak as a believer ought to speak.
- II. But his bitterness was so great that he inserted a caveat to say that if he misspoke or overstepped, it wasn't his better judgment that spoke, but rather his bitterness (cp. Rom 7.15-20; Jer 20.9)
- III. Thus, while there may be less of Job's faith in this speech than there is of Job's feelings, yet his faith is still present and working as it moves him, again and again, away from his friends to his God.

Job's faith

- I. If Job's bitterness must speak, at least he'll see that it speaks to God.
 - A. Job's faith becomes visible as he turns to God. He holds on to God and presses through all his doubts and fear to God, his God.

Lessons

- I. Learn what a hard thing it is to bear an affliction without sin.
 - A. How rare is that person who can not only bless God at the beginning of a trial, but who can continue throughout it?
 - B. How many times have you seen Christians who seemed strong and steady be practically crippled by an affliction?
 - C. This is because affliction is hard to bear. Our flesh is opposed to it and we simply can't bear it in our own strength.
- II. Learn what an absolute necessity faith is to the afflicted.
 - A. The reason we sink under our afflictions like a man caught off guard is because we're not equipped with that faith in Jesus which changes everything.
 - B. Look again at Heb 11 and see what faith enabled God's people both to do and to suffer. Faith is the Christian's panacea for every affliction because it lays hold on Christ and all His graces.
- III. Learn with what patience and grace we should bear with the afflicted
 - A. Part of the reason Job's friends were so bitter to him is because, on top of all their criticism, they failed to bring forth any of the graces that are needed when dealing with hurting people.
 - 1. We learn from them how not to handle suffering people!
 - B. Let us instead study the life of our Saviour and learn from His handling of hurting people—as well as His handling of us, Mt 11.29; 9.2, 22; 14.27
- IV. Learn the wisdom of storing up your treasures in heaven, Mt 6.19-20
 - A. Every treasure in this life has its own troubles, but Christ is the treasure in heaven that will never disappoint.
 - B. He can carry you through all your troubles and give you joy in spite of them, Jer 31.13; Ps 66.6