

Accusations of sin, vv.1-4

- I. However well-meaning he was, Zophar was out of line. He's angry, arrogant, and very sure of himself, cf. Js 1.20
 - A. How differently would these conversations have been if Job's friends would've been less critical of his words and more sympathetic and understanding of his condition.
- II. Zophar immediately brings 4 accusations against Job.
 - A. He accuses him of being an empty talker, a man full of talk, "a man of lips". We know this isn't true. But because he's convinced that Job's being punished by God for sin, he only hears his groans and cries as empty talk.
 - B. He accuses Job of being a liar, a babbler. He says all that Job's been saying about his own innocence simply isn't true.
 - C. He accuses Job of being a mocker (Ps 1.1), of speaking of God in ways that were contemptuous and insulting.
 - D. He accuses Job of being a self-justifier. Because he was so sure of his own opinion, Zophar twisted and misinterpreted Job's words to say that he was claiming sinless perfection, cf. 10.7 (cp. 1.8; 2.4); 6.10
- III. Zophar's accusations are all false and they all reveal just how wide Job's friends were of the mark in his case and how poorly they listened to what he was actually saying.

An Appeal to God, vv.5-6

- I. Zophar is so sure of himself that he appeals to God for backup.
 - A. How telling it is that when God does speak, it's Zophar and his friends who get corrected, not Job, 42.7
 - B. We ought not be so quick to claim that God is on our side. The essence of true wisdom is to speak your mind humbly, ready to be proven wrong if Scripture prevails.
- II. Zophar judges Job harshly and uncharitably, cf. v.12
 - A. Truth to tell, Zophar and his friends were the stubborn ones. They refused to examine their own opinions and were prejudiced against Job.
- III. Zophar is exasperated with Job.
 - A. He's full of animosity and anger. Is that any way to treat a sufferer?
- IV. Zophar's main concern is that Job be humbled into silence by the fact that the depths of God's wisdom is beyond what a man can understand.
 - A. *But...*it's how Zophar drives that point home that's the real clincher and that reveals the extent of his animosity and anger toward poor Job, v.6
 - B. He tells Job that the only reason he's so critical of God's ways is because he doesn't see how guilty he is before God and what he really

deserves. It's bad enough that this is the wrong estimation of Job, but the real pain is in how harshly and hurtfully he says it.

- C. It helps tremendously to remember that Job has been chosen by God to be a foreshadow and type of Christ and His innocent suffering, Heb 7.26; 10.11-14

Lessons for Application

- I. See how easily a good man can be on the wrong side.
 - A. Let this be a lesson to you in how easily anger blinds you to the truth. Learn to speak—and even argue—with humility, always ready to be corrected. You're not always right; and they're not always wrong—and even if they are, angry and harsh accusations is no loving way to help them see it.
- II. Bless God that Jesus, our Saviour and Judge, never mistakes, Gen 18.25; Jer 17.10
 - A. He knows our heart and is not only able, but most ready and glad, to put the best construction on our worst words and to graciously tip the scale in our favor when we meant well but failed to speak well. Bless God for a Saviour whose only prejudice is His unconditional love for us—a love that colors even His discipline of us.
 - B. Never forget that you always have a loving heart, an open ear, and an understanding mind in Jesus. Men and loved ones may not get it, but He does.
- III. Zophar gives us the 2 main hinges upon which all religion turns: purity of doctrine and cleanness of life.
 - A. These two should mark every Christian; because where either of them stands alone, nothing but danger and damage can come from it, Mt 23.2-15.
 - B. These two marks rise and fall together. You either have both or you have neither.
 - C. Note that while no man can be clean in God's eyes, yet His people can be, and are, clean by the graces of justification and sanctification.
 - D. Are *you* clean in God's eyes? There's no way to heaven without it and no way to it but in Christ.