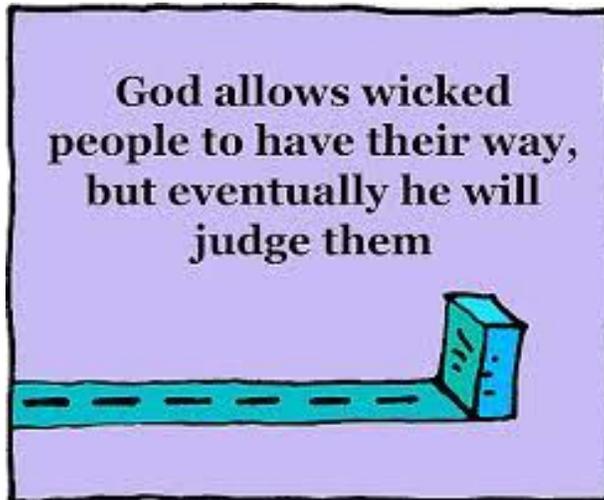


FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014

THEME: DISPLACED BUT NOT MISPLACED THROUGH TRUSTING THE IMMUTABLE GOD

Unit II – Dark Nights of the Soul

“TRUSTING GOD IN DARK TIMES... THE TESTIMONY OF JOB (PART II)”



Sunday School Lesson No. VII - October 19, 2014

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III

Lesson Text: Job 24:1-25 (NLT)

Motto Text: Job 24:1 (NLT), *“Why doesn’t the Almighty bring the wicked to judgment? Why must the godly wait for him in vain?”*

Psalm 55:16 (KJV), *“As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.”*

Required Reading: Job 5:1-27; 24:1-25; Psalm 55:16-23

Reliable Resources: Preaching from the Prophets (Kyle Yates); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Nelson’s Illustrated Manners and Customs of the Bible (1980); Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (1993); The Message (translation); Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; The Outline Study Bible by H. L. Willmington

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Job continues to trust God in dark times. We left him being accused by familiar friends and under the malicious attack of the Adversary the Devil. God stood still and seemingly in the shadows of the sidelines allowing all of this to happen, but God had a plan. Oh what pain it must have been for Job to not be able to justify himself under the harsh and fallacious accusations of his friends who just jabbed him like a pin cushion of guilt. While Job stood like a lamb before the slaughter, Eliphaz urged Job in chapter 5:8-16, to seek Jehovah to present his case before Him and trust Jehovah to heal and restore him after he had received just chastisement for his apparent sin. But there was one main problem. Job was innocent of all the accusations bestowed upon him! He remained trapped in a dead end of darkness. Who can help him? Nobody but God! Let us focus on Part II of Job’s testimony.

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Job Asks. Job 24:1-8**
- **Job’s Anguish. Job 24:9-18**
- **Job’s Answer. Job 24:19-25**

LESSON OUTLINE

“Trusting God in Dark Times, The Testimony of Job (Part II)”

After a blistering two rounds of accusations, Eliphaz started round three of unreasonable accusations against a man who was under great duress. In chapter 22:5-11, Eliphaz the Temanite unleashes a hideous list of probable sins from a terrible imagination against Job. Not only is the list sickening, but he accused Job of trying to hide his so-called sins from God, who truly is the only One who knew the truth and could pronounce vindication. But remember, Job was truly innocent of it all! (Read Job 1:8). God knew Job's heart.

I. Job Asks... “Does God Know?” Job 24:1-8

Job begins to reflect on the Power of the Almighty, His Authority and Ability, but there looms a question in his mind. Why is God silent in the lives of the suffering righteous, as He appears to let sin and sinners go unchecked? Beloved, this is the position of the righteous when they are faced with the plight of suffering innocently. Illustration: John the Baptist, when faced with persecution and certain death, had such a moment as he faced the challenge of Herod's ungodly rule that seemed unchecked. His own demise was eminent and Jesus had apparently not taken rule over evil. He asked in Matthew 11:3, “...*Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?*” But Jesus reassured him with an answer based on scripture from Isaiah 35:5-6 in Matthew 11:4-6.

Like Job, we too ask questions when things don't apparently add up, “*but they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.*” (Isaiah 40). Remember God acts, not reacts! Willmington says, “Why aren't the ungodly judged?...Job cannot understand why God allows the unrighteous to go unpunished.” Verse one sums up the question in the NLT, “*Why doesn't the Almighty bring the wicked to judgment? Why must the godly wait for Him in vain?*” Job's list seems hopeless, but God is faithful. (Read verses 2-8).

II. Job's Anguish... “Does God Care?” Job 24:9-18

As Job asks question after question concerning what seems like a deaf ear and a blind eye of God concerning the sin of the wicked and the suffering of the poor, one might ask, “Does God care?” Remember the continued castigation of Job's friends and now his plea...Where can I find God to plead my case (Job 23:3)?, “*Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat!*”

Job continues to utter his list of injustices against the weak by the ungodly. It appears the unrighteous flourishes and God seems to be silent. Beloved, to Job and those like him, these are truly dark times! But let us take a breath.

III. Job's Answer... “In the End, Death Equalizes.” Job 24:19-25 (NLT)

Quoting Thomas R. Chmura, “It bothered Job that evildoers would experience a peaceful, unmemorable, and undistinguished death. While alive, they exploited both the childless and the widow; even powerful people were not safe from their abusive tactics. Yet the oppressors lived in seeming safety and security.

When the oppressors departed from this life, they would do so with no evidence of God's displeasure or judgment. Job held firm to his convictions and challenged anyone to prove that his viewpoints were wrong.”

Wilmington summarizes verses 19-25 by simply saying that the unrighteous are “Fallen in a flash and forgotten.” It all comes down to my lesson title: “**Trusting God in Dark Times.**”

CLOSING

David, who also faced many adversaries, wrote in Psalm 55:16 (NKJV), and Job's assurance (confidence) relied on this truth in the darkest of times despite every railing accusation: “*As for me, I will call upon God, And the Lord shall save me.*”

The Hymnist wrote: “*His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.*”

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Radio Broadcasts: WVOG AM 600, Saturday, 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

TV Broadcasts: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead:

October 26, 2014

Job 42:1-10

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.