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Daily Devotional - Monday, August 19, 2024 - BILDAD: MEN ARE MAGGOTS

AUGUST 19TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, August 19, 2024 - BILDAD: MEN ARE MAGGOTS

In a court trial, each lawyer is given the opportunity to make a closing argument before judge and jury. In the same way, in chapter 25 of Job, we hear a final speech from Bildad. He starts out strong, proclaiming: “Dominion and awe belong to God” (v. 2). In verses 3 and 4 he continues by asking profound questions. If he had ended after verse 4, we would feel compelled to join him, declaring: There is nobody like our God!

But unfortunately, Bildad kept talking. Verses 5 and 6 exposed his skewed view of humanity. Bildad compared men and women to maggots; a human being to a worm. These derogatory statements were directed at Job, who was in poor physical condition. Bildad was trying to put Job in his place.

How then can a mortal be righteous before God?

How can one born of woman be pure?

JOB 25:4

In his commentary, Tremper Longman contrasts Bildad's view with the psalms: “The psalmist is moved to reflect on the dignity of humanity by saying: ‘You have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas’ (Psalm 8:5–8 NRSV).”

Bildad had forgotten that God created humans in His own image. Scripture states, “So God created mankind in his own image” (Gen. 1:27). While it is true that God’s image in humanity has been marred by sin, we are not maggots. We are given worth and dignity by our Creator.

In verse 4, Bildad asked, “How then can a mortal be righteous before God?” The answer is we are made righteous by placing faith in the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

Go Deeper

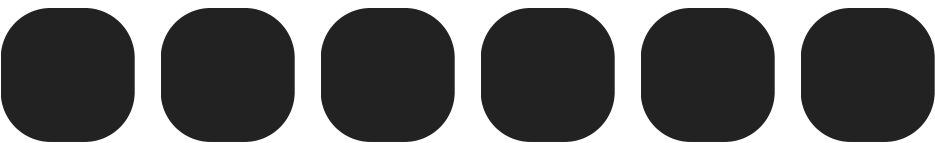
Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation? If not, why not talk to a pastor or a Christian friend about this today? Or go to moodybible.org/knowning-christ.

Pray with Us: Jesus our Lord, help us cast aside our own ambitions and pursuits. Teach us to seek Your purpose for our lives and find our worth and dignity in You, our Creator and Redeemer. Amen!

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, August 15, 202 4-

ZOPHAR: TWISTS AND TURNS

AUGUST 15TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, August 15, 2024 - ZOPHAR: TWISTS AND TURNS

When we were kids, my cousins received a game for Christmas called Twister. It had a plastic sheet that was laid on the floor, and on it were different colored dots. When you spun the needle, the arrow would stop on either a hand or foot and a color. So, you had to put your foot or hand on the colored dot on the sheet. This was the case for every player. Soon everyone was twisted into a knot.

In Job 20, Zophar was twisting Job's words into something that wasn't representative of Job's circumstances (v. 3). Zophar gives a great overview of the ultimate end of the wicked. In fact, chapter 20 of Job is an excellent argument against living an unrighteous and ungodly life.

According to Zophar, the results of this type of life will end in ruin for the wicked. The problem with his argument is he is directing it at Job who is not unrighteous, ungodly, or wicked.

The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.

PSALM 92:15

Although written several years later, Job would have most identified with the words of Psalm 92: "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, 'The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him'" (Ps. 92:12–15). From Job's perspective, he should have been flourishing in his old age like a palm tree.

But life does not always work the way we expect. God allows circumstances to enter our life for the purpose of developing our character and bringing Him glory. Like for Job, the reason is not always revealed for us. But we can trust Him to always do what is best.

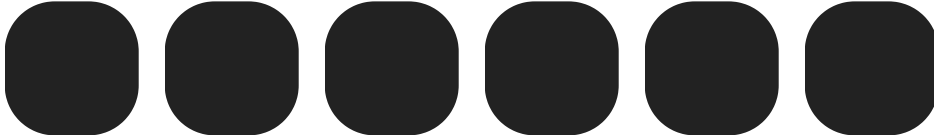
Go Deeper

What twists and turns have you had to deal with in your life? How were you able to adjust to those expected circumstances?

Pray with Us: Merciful God, whenever we seek You, love is what we find! In Christ, we know Your love; in Him we find life. Teach us to seek Christ through all the twists and turns of our destiny.

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, August 14, 2024 - JOB: NO RELIEF

AUGUST 14TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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In high school, I played on the football team. During the off season, the coach would have us lift weights. He had one strict rule when bench pressing. “You must have a partner to make sure you can get the heavy weight off your chest if needed.”

Job was looking for one of his friends to help him with the heavy weight that God had laid upon him (v. 7). Instead, they exalted themselves above him

I know that my redeemer lives.

JOB 19:25

and used his humiliation against him (v. 5). Job had concluded that God had purposely caused the loss and pain in his life. Although, he was not sure why God has done this, he was confident that God was angry with him (v. 11). As a result, he had been disrespected by his servants (v. 15) and little children (v. 18). He had become offensive to his wife (v. 17).

It is easy to understand Job's emotional hurt. All he wanted was genuine emotional support from his friends (v. 21). It is here that Job pivoted in his argument. First, he desired that his words, which his friends despised, be recorded forever (vv. 23–24). I wished he could hear me say, "Job, they were recorded! They are in God's Word for all eternity!"

Second, he stated that he knows that his Redeemer lives and that one day he will see Him with his own eyes (vv. 25–27). Job had insight regarding the Redeemer, His coming, and Job's own resurrection. To this I say, "Amen, Job!" Our Redeemer, Jesus Christ lives! He is coming back for us! He has secured our resurrection! We will see Him with our own eyes!

Job has given his friends (and us) a theology lesson. In chapter 9, Job desired an arbitrator. By chapter 16, Job knows he has an advocate. Here he declares, confidently, that he has a Redeemer. If only his friends would listen!

Go Deeper

How is Jesus our Arbitrator, Advocate, and Redeemer? Why do each of those roles make a difference to us?

Pray with Us: Lord God, You are indeed our Advocate and Redeemer! Job knew it, and we know it! We are safe in You. "What a fellowship, what a joy divine,/Leaning on the everlasting arms." (Showalter & Hoffman, 1887)

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Daily Devotional - Monday, August 12, 2024 - JOB: I'VE BEEN HUMILIATED

AUGUST 12TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, August 12, 2024 - JOB: I'VE BEEN HUMILIATED

Job responds to his so-called friend Eliphaz by making a statement of which most of us would agree: "You are miserable comforters, all of you!" (16:2). Again, the goal of his friends was to have Job confess to something that was not true. But, holding firm to his integrity, Job would not do it.

Job was bewildered regarding the reason for his misfortune. But he seems even more bewildered by the response of his friends and acquaintances. He states, "People open their mouths to jeer at me; they strike my cheek in scorn and unite together against me" (16:10).

Whether striking the cheek is meant literally or figuratively, these responses were painful to Job.

The beautiful thing about Job, which is often missed in the back-and-forth dialogue, is his hope in God in the midst of his loss. Three wonderful verses are placed in the center of his response. He exclaims, "Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man he pleads with God as one pleads for his friend" (16:19–21).

Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high.

JOB 16:19

Earlier in the book, we read that Job was looking for an arbitrator. Now, he declares that he has an advocate in heaven that is pleading on his behalf. Job is certain that even if men and women falsely accuse him, he has an advocate in heaven. We know that Advocate to be Jesus Christ (1 John 2:1).

In the crucible of his conflict, one of two things is happening. Either Job is progressively sharing more of the truth he knows, or Job is realizing more about God in the midst of his turmoil. Either way, it is a reminder to us that often we walk closer to God during times of pain and are more open to His truth when we hurt.

Go Deeper

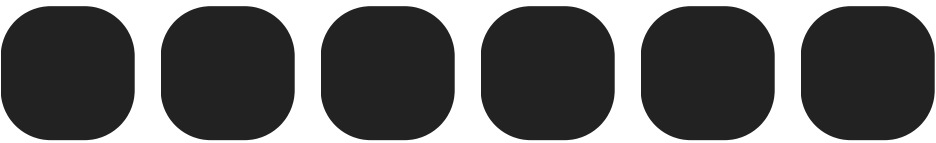
Have you ever been falsely accused? In your own experience, have hard times driven you closer to Jesus or away from Him?

Pray with Us: Loving God, we find great comfort in Your words: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). You are our refuge and strength, and You can redeem even the times of pain and suffering.

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Daily Devotional - Friday, August 9, 2024 - Repent of Your Sin

AUGUST 09TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Friday, August 9, 2024 - Repent of Your Sin

In the television competition program *The Voice*, a contestant will sing, but the judges have their backs to him or her. The judges listen to the singer and are not swayed by how the singer appears. The contestant is chosen solely upon what the judges hear. Therefore, they must listen very intently to each note.

The third respondent to listen and pass judgment on Job's situation was Zophar. He was the most callous of the three friends. He referred to Job's responses as "idle talk" (v. 3). He wanted God to speak against Job (v. 5). He was so opposed to Job's innocence

that he proclaimed that "God has forgotten some of your sin" (v. 6). This statement indicates that Zophar believed that Job was not receiving the full punishment he deserved. Since God knows everything (vv. 7–9), Job needed to come clean.

Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?

JOB 11:7

Zophar set himself up as the judge and jury. He spoke authoritatively on God's behalf. He directed Job to "put away the sin that is in your hand" (v. 13) and as a result, "life will be brighter than noonday and darkness will become morning" (v. 17).

Again, there is some truth to Zophar's statements. If a person is engaged in sinful behavior, he should repent and seek the Lord. In turn, the Lord will forgive and cleanse (1 John 1:9). But Zophar's directives did not fit the circumstances. Job's talk was not idle but factual. If only Zophar had listened intently to every word Job spoke, instead of being swayed by appearances.

Unfortunately, it is easy to pass judgment on an individual based upon appearance. A wise person is slow to speak and quick to listen (James 1:19). Zophar made up his mind about Job based upon what he observed, not based on what Job was sharing. Let us be people who listen, understand, and offer grace when needed.

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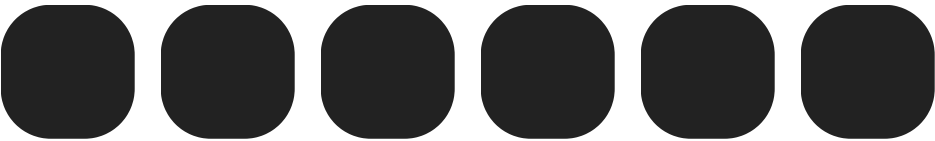
When was the last time you provided a listening ear to someone in need? How can you be a better listener?

Pray with Us: “Do not judge, or you too will be judged” (Matt. 7:1). Lord Jesus, make us people who listen, understand, and offer grace. Soften our hearts that we may hear Your voice, turn to You with all our worries, and comfort others.

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