



Title: Job – The Dialogue (Chs. 3 - 42:6) – Eliphaz’s First Speech – [Speaking the Truth but in the wrong time and in the wrong spirit]

Text: Job 4-5

Introduction:

1. Job’s friends were convinced that God rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked – since Job was suffering, he was being punished and therefore he needed to repent of sin.
2. Each friend emphasized a different aspect of God. Their problem is half-truths, and misapplications.
3. Eliphaz measured everything by his experience. (4:8; 5:3; 15:17) – “I have seen.”

I. Eliphaz’s Rebuke of Job (4:1-6)

- A. Eliphaz warned Job of his speech (v.2)
- B. Are you not able Job to take your own medicine? (vv.3-4)
- C. You had confidence with God in the past, why not now? (v.6)

II. Eliphaz explains his reasoning about suffering (4:7-11)

- A. Here is Eliphaz’s theology: God punishes the wicked. (Pro. 22:8; Hos. 8:7; 10:13)
- B. This is true – but not in Job’s case.

III. Eliphaz adds his experience with a “vision” (4:12-21)

- A. Eliphaz appealed to his experience of a dream or a vision. (What he saw).
- B. Our personal experiences do not exceed Scriptural truths and principles.
- C. In all this Eliphaz was implying a negative answer. – Man can never be righteous in God’s sight and God does not trust His servants (angels and men).
- D. “Job, you are getting what you deserve...God’s anger.” – in essence is what Eliphaz is saying.

IV. Eliphaz’s Recommendation to Job (5:1-17)

- A. “seek unto God” – Eliphaz is correct BUT not in Job’s case.
- B. “Job you must endure God’s punishment and do not despise this.”
- C. Eliphaz expounds a lot of truth here about God – unfortunately he wrongly applied it to Job.

V. Eliphaz’s Reminder of God’s Blessings (5:18-27)

- A. If you would just acknowledge your guilt Job, God would bless you.
- B. 5:27 – Eliphaz was self-assured of all these things.

Conclusion:

1. Job was suffering and unable to encourage himself – therefore Eliphaz ought to have been the one to encourage him instead.
2. (5:8) – If I was in your shoes, Job, this is what I would do! – baseless statement. Eliphaz was never in such a situation. Be careful with using helpless and fruitless phrases – “If I were you”; I know exactly what you are going through” (no you don’t). “God told me”; “I think the Lord is leading me.”
3. This first speech is loaded with truths are half-truths:
 - 3.1. Job’s suffering is a result of sin. (yes but no in Job’s case).
 - 3.2. Man has no chance of being righteous before God. (yes and no).
 - 3.3. Suffering is corrective or retributive. (yes and no).
 - 3.4. God is transcended (separate from His Creation). (yes).
 - 3.5. Submission to God brings His blessings. (yes).
4. “Job you are being disciplined by God, just submit to Him and He will bless you.”
5. Eliphaz’s correct theology was of no use or comfort to Job. (Let us have wisdom in how we treat people). Let us treat people with great compassion. Head knowledge is not enough.
6. God does punish us for our sin – but why? – BECAUSE He loves us! (Heb. 12:5-11).
7. Eliphaz should have listened with compassion (1 Cor. 13:7) – Charity bears and believes all things.