

**Job 36: 13-33; “There is No Teacher Like God”, Sermon # 44 in the series –  
“Remember to Magnify His Work”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall  
On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

I am going to be preaching to you primarily from verses 22-33 in this message. It is not as though verses 13-21 are not important for us to consider. But in them Elihu is primarily issuing a warning to Job not to turn to iniquity because of the greatness of his affliction. He warns him not to be like the hypocrites who do not cry to God for help when He binds them. (verses 13 & 14) He tells him that God does deliver the poor in their affliction, and He does open their ears in oppression. (vs. 15) He asserts in verse 16 that, by this time, God would have brought him out of dire distress into a broad place where there was no restraint, had he not spoken rashly at some points. (vs. 16)

He was afraid that Job was so filled with thoughts of judgment and justice, that somehow God had not dealt with him according to his righteousness, that he was in real danger of falling under God’s grave displeasure. (vs. 17) He tells him to beware lest God take him away with one blow. (vs. 18) For even a large ransom would not help him to avoid this, he says. He reminds Job that all of his riches, or all the mighty forces of men, could not keep him from distress. (vs. 19) And so he should not desire the night when people are cut off in their place. (vs. 20)

Elihu was reminding Job that he was in God’s hands. That is what Elihu was trying to tell him here. Job already knew this, for at one point in chapter 6, verses 8 & 9, he said – Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant me the thing that I long for! That it would please God to crush me, that He would loose His hand and cut me off! Elihu tells him in verse 21 – Take heed, Job, for you have chosen this rather than affliction. Elihu then goes on to say that Job ought to remember to magnify God’s work of which men have sung. Everyone has seen it he says. Man looks on it from afar.

This is what we want to think about in this message before we partake of the Lord’s Supper. We want to remember God’s work in creation and God’s work in Christ. The work that Elihu is primarily thinking of is God’s work of upholding His creation. He does this by ordering all things according to the counsel of His will. God’s providence, then, in relation to His watching over His creation, all created things, and His creature man, is His most holy and wise preserving and governing of all His creatures and all of their actions.

What Elihu is trying to tell Job is that during this time of his distress and affliction he needs to remember to magnify God’s work as far as he has learned it by his own experience. What is marvelous in regard to what Elihu would have Job to remember about God’s providential care of His creature man is God’s ordering of the weather. In his remaining words to Job in chapters 36 and 37, Elihu wants to remind Job of God’s work in bringing clouds and rain, about His bringing thunder and lightning, about His forming ice and snow, and about His forming bright light in the clouds and then bringing the wind that clears these clouds.

All of this will have great relevance for us, as to how God sovereignly brings grace to His dearly beloved people, and how He providentially orders the trials that we go through, and what we should learn by them to make us more fit to meet Him face to face, as each of us someday shall. There is no teacher like God, and so it will be good if we can learn from His works of creation, just how great His work in our salvation and sanctification is, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – God would have us to learn that He is exalted by His power.** (verses 22-25)

Verse 26 – “Behold, God is exalted by His power; Who teaches like Him?” “Who has assigned Him His way, or who has said, You have done wrong?” “Remember to magnify His work, of which men have sung.” “Everyone has seen it; man looks on it from afar.” We should see from these words that our God is exalted in Himself. He is exalted in His great Being. He is the Most High God. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-wise God to whom belongs glory and honor forever. He is the greatest of beings because He is infinite in His understanding. There is nothing impossible for Him. There is nothing too difficult for Him. He Himself is above all created things. This is because He is

immense, He fills all things. It is because He is impassible, He is unaffected by any created thing or person. And yet He is also love to all of His people whom He has had mercy upon and saved them from their sins.

Psalm 138: 1-8 – “I will praise You with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing praises to You. I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name. In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, when they hear the words of Your mouth. And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. Though the Lord is on high (though He is exalted) yet He regards the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me. The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; your mercy; O Lord, endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands.”

These are the words of a man who has been taught by grace. The Psalmist David here praises God with his whole heart, and he will do it before the gods, those magistrates and kings who are sometimes called gods. Or perhaps he is thinking of the fictitious deities of the pagan nations around him, the nations that he had conquered in battle. He praises God for His lovingkindness and His truth, the truth of His blessed word. He praises God because God had magnified His word above all His name. He made great His word of promise to David in terms of his salvation, and He solemnly promised him that He would be faithful in fulfilling it.

John Gill says – “It may with propriety be applied to Christ the essential Word that was made flesh, and dwelt among men; whom God has highly exalted, and not only given him a name above every name of men on earth, but also above any particular name or attribute of His: or however He has magnified Him ‘according’ to every name of His, it being His will that men should honor the Son as they honor the Father.” God has magnified His name by His word. (end of quote) Now, we must ask ourselves, how did David learn these things related to God and His power and His ways? He learned them because God revealed them to Him. God revealed Himself to David through His word.

God is exalted by His power. That is, by the way that He uses His power. He uses His power to demonstrate His justice and His mercy both to believers and to unbelievers. How could David be strong in the face of great enemies? Verse 3 – In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul. This, my beloved brethren is the strength of imparted grace which comes through our Lord Jesus Christ. Only in the Lord are righteousness and strength. The Lord Jesus Christ, our strong Redeemer purchased this grace for us at the cross. He purchased it even for believing kings.

How could David say that all the kings of the earth would praise the Lord when they would hear the words of His mouth? It is because in a time to come, in this present Church age, all the kings of the earth will be savingly brought to Christ, and they will sing of the ways of the Lord, because great is the glory of the Lord. God is exalted by His power in Christ to save those whom He purposes to save. And even though He is exalted, He will also regard the lowly; but the proud He will know from afar. All these kings will be taught of God. And they will sing of the glory of the Lord. Remember to magnify His work, of which men have sung.

Even though David walked in the midst of trouble, yet God would revive him. He would stretch out His hand against the wrath of his enemies, and God’s right hand (the word picture of Jesus Christ our Lord, who sits at the right hand of the Father). He would save him. God would perfect that which concerned him. And He will do the same for you. He will teach you all that you need to learn to become acceptable and pleasing in His sight. God will teach you His holy ways and you will sing of the mercy of the Lord forever. With Your mouth you will make known His faithfulness.

Job, in His awful situation, was tempted to think that God was not righteous in the way that He was dealing with him because he had pursued righteousness with all of his heart. And it appeared to him that God was punishing him now, rewarding him now, not according to his righteousness, but

according to his sins. He had lost his assurance of hope. Assurance of faith is your looking outside of yourself to Christ, and by faith, laying your sins on Jesus. You have trusted in Christ and now you know that you have received the forgiveness of your sins because you have believed the gospel. Assurance of hope is your believing that you see the difference that God's grace has made in your life. He has given you His Holy Spirit, who witnesses with your spirit that you are a child of God. And now, as you look at your life, you see the changes that Christ's grace has brought to your life so that you can show forth the fruit of the Spirit, and do the good works which God's word commands.

You come to know and believe that God is blessing you to be the godly person that you desire to be. It was this assurance that Job had lost. He no longer sensed God's blessing in his life at all. He wrongly thought that God had become his enemy and he did not know why. But let us remember the last verse of Psalm 138 – "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; your mercy; O Lord, endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands." This is the prayer which Job should have been praying at this time. God does perfect that which concerns us. His mercy does endure forever. And when we do not sense His presence we have every right to pray that He will not forsake the works of His hands. Will you not remember this, dear Christian? There is no Teacher like Him.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> – God would have us to learn that He is great, and we do not know Him.**

Verse 26 says – Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; nor can the number of His years be discovered. In Psalm 145, verses 1-3 David says – "I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever." "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable." We have just seen that God is exalted by His power. Now, here in this verse we see that God is great, but we do not really understand how great He is. He has no confinement of time or space. He is eternal, without beginning or ending or days. He always was, is, and always will be; the first and the last, the beginning and the end, and He is infinitely still greater than that!

When Elihu says that we do not know Him, he is not saying that we cannot or do not know Him savingly. But he is saying that even though we do know Him, there is always so much more to learn. For instance, there is so much more that we need to be learn about the greatness of His anger against sin and sinners. And there is so much more that we need to learn about His mercy and His love for us in Christ. Moses in Psalm 90, verses 11 and 12 say – "Who knows the power of Your anger?" "For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath." "So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." We see here that since we do not know the power of God's anger, that we must be taught to number our days, so that we do not waste our time on vain or sinful things.

This is something that only God can teach us by His grace in Christ. It is God alone who can enable us to gain a heart of wisdom. And we must learn to pray in this regard. For Moses says in verses 13-17 – "Return, O Lord!" "How long?" "And have compassion on Your servants." "Oh, satisfy us early with your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!" "Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, the years that we have seen evil." "Let your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children." "And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands." This is a good prayer to pray for New Testament Christians as well as Old.

It is possible to grieve the Holy Spirit by the way that you think or live. And although He will never leave you or forsake you as a Christian, He may leave you to yourself. He may leave you without a sense of His blessed presence, for some time until you repent of secret sins, or presumptuous sins, or worldly ways that you have cultivated in your life. It really is your duty to repent of your sins. Your continuing in them, even in what you might consider little sins, is something that brings grief to the Spirit.

It is also possible that if you are going through a trial that you need to understand that God knows how dry and parched your soul can become. And He can, and He will minister to this great need by His word and by His Spirit. Verses 27 & 28 – "For He draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man." This verse teaches us that God knows how to bring blessing and refreshment, not only to the bodies of men, but to the souls of

His saints. The different kinds of rain that he brings shows this. Sometimes God causes rain to come down in very small drops, even sometimes in a mist. Other times he will send a light rain, and other times he will send a heavy rain. He is very precise in the amounts of rain that He gives, and the gentleness or intensity of the rain that He determines that He will bring. None of His rain is an accident. It all falls or is withheld according to His specific plan and purpose. Amos chapter 4, verses 7 & 8 – “I also withheld rain from you, when there were still three months to the harvest.” “I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city.”

“One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain, the part withered.” “So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me, says the Lord.” This shows that it is by God’s giving of rain or withholding it, that He judges the peoples as Elihu says in verse 31. How thankful we who know the Lord ought to be that the Father has sent His Son to bear the storm of His wrath on the cross, so that we might come to know the watering and refreshing of our souls with His grace by the Holy Spirit’s working.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> – God would have us to learn concerning the spreading of the clouds.**

Verse 29 – “Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, the thunder from His canopy?” “Look, He scatters His light upon it, and covers the depths of the sea.” “For by these He judges the peoples; He gives food in abundance.” “He covers His hands with lightning, and commands it to strike.” “His thunder declares it, the cattle also, concerning the rising storm.” These words of Elihu’s were spoken in anticipation of the storm that was coming, in which God Himself would arrive and speak to Job in the 38<sup>th</sup> chapter. Technically, there should not have been any chapter division here, for in the first verse of chapter 37 Elihu says – “At this also my heart trembles, and leaps from its place.” Hear attentively the thunder of His voice, and rumbling that comes from His mouth.”

Elihu is going to say more about the storm and the rain, but what can I say about these last verses of chapter 36 in relation to our partaking of the Supper? I believe we should see the spreading of the clouds is a picture of God’s getting ready to reveal His purposes to Job as to why He should ordain that Job should go through such a trial as this. It was to show Job that even though he was a righteous man who feared God and was turning away from evil, he still had much to learn about God’s ways of teaching him how to fight and win the spiritual battle he was in with the Devil. The only way that Job would win that battle, we know was by and through the grace of His Redeemer.

It would not be won by his insisting on his own righteousness and his own integrity. It would be by his coming to see himself as a righteous man who still needed to learn much more about the perfections of God, both in regard to His purposes and His judgments and mercy that He would show Job. Sin is falling short of the glory of God. Righteousness is pressing on to know the Lord. Hosea 6, verses 1-3 says – “Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.”

“After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight.” “Let us know, let us pursue, or press on, to know the Lord.” “His going forth is as certain as the dawn; He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain, watering the earth, let us press on to know the Lord.” The Lord, when He comes into this conversation, will rebuke Job by coming to him in a whirlwind in a windstorm. There would be lightning and thunder in His approach. He would rebuke Him for darkening counsel by words without knowledge. But He would also come to restore the fortunes of Job and bless him by restoring his soul, his family, his possessions, and his friends to him when he repented in dust and ashes.

My brethren, Christ had to die for this. If Job was the most righteous man of his day, and I believe that he must have been, then you can begin to see, can’t you, why his righteousness was not enough to rescue him from either Satan’s schemes or God’s displeasure with him for trusting so much in his own righteousness that he was justifying himself rather than God. No, Christ alone could give to Job a righteousness better than his own. God alone could teach Job how to humbly receive this. And He does the same for you and me who are trusting in Him. Let us remember Christ now.

