



JOB: Man Of God

October ?, 2005

Message 9

Scripture reading Job 38:39-39:4

INTRO: I suppose, if I were to summarize Job 38-39, it would be, "So Job, you think I count you as my enemy, and I am far removed from your problem. I am not your enemy. I love you with an everlasting love. I care about your problems and I am able to fix up all your problems. But you have a few things to learn. From inanimate creation, you should be able to see that I know every last thing about you and I care about every last little thing. Now I want to show you a few things about Myself from animate creation, from the animal world." And as I see the book, when God is done showing Job how much He knows and how much He cares then He will proceed to reveal Job's problem to him.

The book of Job is written like a good novel. It builds up the plot and builds it up, until almost the end of the story and then the plot is revealed and everything ends and Job lives happily ever after. Now let me say a few words about that. If it pleases the purposes of God, then life may not end up living happily ever after. It may end up in death. But if it should end up in death, in the midst of it all, I can fully trust God that He knows and cares about every detail of my life.

In Hebrews 11 we have a host of victorious Christians who conquered by faith and lived to enjoy the victories. But in the last part of the chapter it gives a number of others who did not accept deliverance and died by faith that they might inherit a better resurrection. It says some were stoned and some were sawn in two. Their life of faith ended by faith.

I want to give you an example of that, and why do I do this? Because, not every story ends like Job. Yours might not. Mine might not. Just because one lives right does not mean God is obligated to have us live happily ever after. We have proof of that from the life of John the Baptist, who lived a godly life of self sacrifice. He sacrificed a normal married life. He sacrificed the comforts of life. He sacrificed making friends with men like Herod, by making an enemy out of him by confronting him with the truth.

And then one day he was thrown in prison. And in prison he sent two of his disciples to Jesus and said something like this, "All right Jesus, are you truly the Christ, and if so, why is my life being wasted here in this prison? And if You are not the Christ, do we wait for another?" And Jesus sent back and said, "You tell John the things you hear and see. Miracle after miracle. The blind see. The deaf hear. You tell him what you see. And oh, by the way, tell John this: blessed is the man who is not offended by me." You see, Jesus knew John was offended by the fact that his time was being wasted in prison. But, you see, whether my life ends in a fearful death or not, does not change who Jesus is in the slightest way.

I tell you all this so that no one gets the false hopes that if you live right, God will bless your life with wealth or long life. You can find victory whether you live or die. But though some life stories do not have a happy ending, like John the Baptist, yet Job's story ended by living happily ever after. However, right where we are in the story of Job, he is undergoing fiery trials. God has shown him from inanimate creation, that He can take care of Job's problems and that He knows all about him and He cares about him. Now he will show him this from the realm of the animals.

C. By God continued(38:39-40:5)

Question #1: So we come to the first question as relates to animate creation: "Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens, or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait?" Anyone here know how many lions are hunting for food for their young right now? Anybody know how many young lions are lying there with growling tummies? Anybody care? But do you know what? God knows and God cares, and God sees to it that they are fed. This is true of every insect; every reptile; every beast; every fish and every bird.

Just look at the very next verse(read 41). This worthless bird, who cares for it? Who hears its young cry for food? God hears, and God answers. "Job, did you say I count you as my enemy? Job, Job. Who is it that provided you with all you had?"

Now turn with me to an enlightening passage (read Luke 12:6-7). "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And one of them is forgotten before God." Every sparrow, every swallow, every mouse, every worm, every fish, every insect; when it dies, God knows, and God cares. You say, "How do you know He cares? Listen to Luke 12:6, "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?" Sparrows are cheap. Cheaper by the dozen, we would say. According to Matthew Poole, a farthing was 1/10 of a Roman penny. The sparrow was a small bird that the Jews used for food. Here they are, cheaper by the dozen, and over there a cat has caught a sparrow and God knows it, and He cares. And do you know what application Jesus makes to life from that fact? Look at verse 7 (read). From the fact that God cares about the sparrow that has almost no value, Jesus makes this application, "Fear not, you are worth more than many sparrows." From this Jesus draws this truth that every hair on our head is numbered.

And so in our verse God is saying something like this: "Job, who hears the cry of the raven and its young?" And from the fact that God hears and cares, Job should have made the application that if God cares about this worthless bird and hears its cry, do you think, Job, that I hear your cry?

Question #3: (read 39:1-4) I think 39:1-2 is not a question of whether Job knows when the wild mountain goats and when the deer give birth. He will have known when they give birth, that is the general season. I think the question is if he knows each time any one of them gives birth, so that he can care for them in their travail. Jamieson, Faucett and Brown comment like this: "Even wild beasts, cut off from all care of *man*, are cared for by *God* at their seasons of greatest need." It may be the Lord is saying something like this, "Job, when the mountain goats or deer give birth, you pay not the slightest heed to it. But I am there. Every last one of them, I am there and I care for them. Do you think, Job, that when one of them travails, and then complications set in, that I am not there or that I couldn't care less? From this Job should have asked himself, "How can I actually think I am God's enemy, when He even cares for the animals high on the mountain when they

travail? If God cares about these animals in their time of travail, how much more must He not care for me in my time of trouble?"

Question #4: (read 5-8) Job, there is the donkey that can be tamed and there is the donkey that is free, that is free from the bondage of man. Man cannot tame him. Who set him free? Who made him so that you cannot tame him? Who made him so that he has no need of man to care for him? You cannot bring him into submission to yourself, and why is that? Of course, it is because I made him like that. Job, how is it that you are subject to circumstances? Who is ultimately in control of your circumstances and brings you into submission through them? You are not able to overcome things yourself. Why are you like that? Is it not because I have made you?

Question #5: (read 9-12) Job, the wild ox. Can you tame him? Well, what about the tame ox. How is it that you can use him but not the wild ox? Would you not agree, it is because I have made him like that? One ox you can tame, the other you can't. Have you considered why it is like that? Well, then have you considered why you are in the present situation?

Question #6: (read 13-16) Consider the ostrich. She might wave her wings proudly, but are they like the wings and pinions of the stork? Not at all. And then, dumb bird that she is, she lays her eggs in the sand and leaves them. She pays no mind that they might be stepped on. She treats her young as though they were not her own.

Now you may have heard that the ostrich, when it senses danger, it sticks its head in the sand. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, that is a legend that probably came from the practice of lying down with neck stretched out when in danger. And so we ask this question: Why is this bird "Zoo bedutzed"? Well, God gives us the answer (read 17).

I don't know, but maybe God is saying, "Job, why do you hurt so terribly over losing your children? Why do you hurt so over losing your possessions? Is it not because I have made you like that? If I had made you like the ostrich, I would not be able to speak to

you through those things. You wouldn't even care. But because I made you the way I did, now I can speak to you through those things."

Question # 7: (read 19-25). The Lord now speaks to Job of the warhorse. Not any horse makes a war horse. But some do. The Lippuzanor horses are warhorses, bred for battle. War horses know no fear of sword, or of noise of battle. As a matter of fact, it gets them going. They get excited for it. Job, did you give the warhorse its strength? Who did? Why is this horse the way it is? Well, Job, why are you the way you are?

Question #8: (read 26-30) Look at the hawk or the eagle. I made them the way I made them to equip them to do what they do. They dwell high in the crag of the rocks, and I give them wings to obtain to those heights. They have eyes that can spot their prey from a long way off. I have equipped them for what they need. By the way Job, I have equipped you for what you need. I made you. I made you the way I did so that you would be equipped to do what I want you to do.

So God's lessons for Job to this point come to an end. As I see it, God has told Job that, yes, He knows all about Job's troubles and it is not that He does not care for Job. It is out of His great love and care that He has let all these things happen. Job is not his enemy, he is the center of His love.

So chapter 40 begins something like this: "So Job, we have come to the end of our lessons from animate and inanimate creation, so, shall the one who contends with the Almighty now correct Him, please? He who rebukes God, let him answer it." God had said earlier, "I will question you, and you shall answer Me." And now He will wait no longer, Job must answer. "Job, you were going to correct Me, now do so."

Now let us look at the first part of Job's answer. but before we do that let me remind you of a few things he said earlier, "31:35-37 Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire *is, that* the Almighty would answer me, and *that* mine adversary had written a book. 36 Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, *and* bind it as a crown to me. 37 I would declare

unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him." Now look at his first words in 40:4, "Behold, I am vile..." The text literally reads, "I am light..." Once he thought himself to be a weighty man. But now he finds himself all too light. There is no weight to his fine tuned arguments. And so he says, "What shall I answer You? I don't know what to say."

Then comes his second statement, "I lay my hand over my mouth." And why does he do that? He is saying, "Lord, you have silenced me. I have nothing to say." Then Job says, "Once I have spoken, but I will not answer, Yes twice, but I will proceed no further."

Job had wished for a hearing with God. Now he has been in the presence of God and he is silenced. But to be silenced is not yet enough. God would like to hear more, and He will after He exposes to Job what the problem is. We will begin to see that problem in the next message.

CONCL: And so, in conclusion, what has happened so far? Well, from inanimate creation God has shown Job that He knows everything going on in Job's life, and that He is not unjust, but He is there and He cares. As He sees to the needs of the young lions, as He provides for the raven; as He knows when the wild goats and deer bear their young and He cares; much more does He care for Job. As the rest of the animal world performs that which it was created to do, so God wants man to bring forth that which He created him to do. It is not for Job to instruct the Creator, it is for the Creator to instruct Job.

How does all that apply to us? Do you think that God knows all about you? I want to read something for you that I copied from a video tape done by Creation Research Institute. The speaker, I believe, was Ken Ham.

*Our bodies contain about 30 trillion cells. Inside each cell is a little porous bag called a nucleus. It contains millions of components right in this little sphere. A microbiologist friend of mine has likened that nucleus to what's as complex as the city of Tokyo. There are millions of components. Some of them are producing things, some consuming things, there are electrical and chemical messages that are going back and forth, sometimes millions*

per second. It is very, very complex. In fact that nucleus is almost a miniature universe in itself. But the most interesting thing in my opinion, are the 23 pairs of chromosomes that you have. You receive one set of 23 from your father and one set of 23 from your mother. They're all curled up and scrunched together like little springs. If we could take those springs and stretch them out there would be a long skinny strand about 7 feet long. But when we stretch it out it would become so thin you couldn't even see it under a electron microscope. But if we could take a little piece of that and magnify it a hundred million times it would look like this. Now there is a fantastic amount of information coded on this long 7 foot strand as we see it. A fantastic amount! That information determines for example what you look like. And that explains, doesn't it, why I'm so good looking? Explains why you are the way you are too. It's like a computer program. It tells every cell in your body how it is to operate from the very instant you're conceived until the day you die. It's a marvelous piece of information. Now let's consider just how much genetic material you have in your body. Sometimes this material goes by the name of the DNA or the nucleic acid or the genetic material or the genes: all means about the same thing. But let's consider the following. You see this 7 foot long tape here. How long do you think it would become if we hooked all 30 trillion cells worth together? You think it would stretch across the United States? You think it would go around the earth? It would go from here to the moon over a hundred thousand times! Now let's consider the following: If we scooped up all that DNA that would stretch from here to the moon over a hundred thousand times, it would not fill two teaspoons. Remember it's very, very thin. Now let's look at it another way. You see this 7 foot long tape: if we reduced that information that's stored on that tape, very densely stored information, it would fill a very rich library of over four thousand volumes. Can you picture four thousand books? Can you picture this stage lined with books from one end to the other maybe 8 feet tall? That would be about four thousand books. You've got that much information crammed into every cell of your body and every cell has a duplicate set of those four thousand volumes. Now I want you to think big. See these four thousand books. How big a room do you think it would take if we were to reduce all 30 trillion cells of your body to their 4000 book equivalent? Do you think it would fill this huge auditorium? You don't think it would? Who has an idea how big a room it would take? I know many of you have been

*to the Grand Canyon. If we were to reduce every cell to its four thousand book equivalent it would fill this Grand Canyon to overflowing 40 times! And you probably don't have a good feel for how big that Grand Canyon is. Sure, it's a mile deep; it's several miles wide, maybe 3-20 miles depending on where you're standing but it stretches out laterally for 200 miles. You have got a fantastic amount of information built into you're body. You are intricately designed; you are extremely complex!*

Now who made all that? Do you think God knows every cell in your body? Do you think He knows if you are carrying cancer cells? Did not Jesus say that He counts every hair on your head? I was reading A.W. Tozar recently. He said, "Remember that God is enthusiastic about His works. God is not an absentee running His world by remote control. The Scripture says that He is 'upholding all things by the word of His power' (Hebrews 1:3). The presence of the invisible Word in the universe makes things run. God is the perfect creator and He runs everything by being present in His works. That's all through the prophets, the Psalms and the book of Job - all through the Old Testament" (The Attributes of God, page 44).

And so I ask you this morning, do you think that cares about you? Or do you think He programmed you with certain kinds of diseased cells and now He sits back and does not care? Does He not care for every sparrow that falls to the ground? Does He not feed the lion cub or the young raven? And if the wild donkey, the wild ox, the ostrich, the horse, the hawk and the eagle do that which they were created for, why would we not do that which we are created for? And what is that? To glorify Him by trusting Him in everything!

Could you commit everything in your life to a God who knows all 30 trillion cells in your body, and who cares for you from the bottom of His heart? Could you commit yourself to a Creator who made you for Himself? That is what God is looking for. How about this morning, bowing before God and saying, "I trust You. Here is my body. Here is my all. Do with me as You wish."