

JOB: Man Of God
Jan. 15, 2006
Message 12
Scripture reading Job 41:1-11

INTRO: This is the fifth message under point C. It is also the last under this point. We are in the heart of the book. In Job 40-41, God finally accomplishes His goal. Job, the most righteous man on earth, I believe, will have had a tumor of pride removed from himself. It will be such a successful surgery that God will be able to double His blessings to Job. But this tumor will come out hard. It is hard to get pride out of ungodly people. But it may just as harder to get it out of righteous people.

And so God has challenged Job that if he can humble proud and wicked people, then He God, will acknowledge that Job can save himself. Then God used behemoth, possibly the largest land animal, to give Job some kind of idea what kind of a task he was up against. Here is the challenge: Job, catch behemoth when he is watching, and you stand a chance at making proud people humble.

Now why did God challenge Job to humble the proud and the wicked? I think it might be because Job did not see himself struggling with the beginnings of pride. He saw himself as a righteous man. He could see no pride. I am presently of the opinion that the Lord challenged Job to consider humbling proud and wicked people so that he would get to see himself.

It may be that we have come to here in Job and some of us have not yet begun to see our pride. We might be like the man who went to spend a day by himself to get right with God before revival meetings began in their church. This pastor went off and came back after a day of soul searching to say, "Guess what honey. The Lord never showed me a thing wrong with me." But when God began to deal with others, he dealt with this pastor too. So the Lord says in Job 40:9, "Have you an arm like God, or can you thunder with a voice like God?" God can search the deep recesses of the heart, and His voice can thunder until we hear no other. And then, we have the option to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.

Well, God has shown Job in behemoth, that chief of land animals, what kind of a task it is to humble people. Now

the Lord will go to the sea and reveal another fearsome creature, likely the largest of all sea creatures: Leviathan.

C. By God continued(38:1-42:6)

In chapter 40:15-24 the Lord has described behemoth. And I believe the closing verse is best translated something like this: Can anyone capture him when he is on watch; can anyone pierce his nose with barbs? When I grew up we had an Angus bull that was hard to handle. My dad bought a metal ring to put in his nose, and from then on you could attach a rope to the ring and lead him anywhere you wanted him to go. I think that is what may be in view here. Can you pierce behemoth's nose and tame him? And if you can't, then neither can you humble proud people.

So we have come to chapter 41 in Job. Presented to us is the sea monster called leviathan. I have no doubt that this was some kind of water dinosaur. We find this in verses 31-32 (read). In verses 1 and 2, the Lord asks Job whether man could catch this sea monster with fishing gear (read). Now these monsters were huge. They weighed many tons. Some years ago we were fishing on the Skeena River. Fishing was poor and we had fished for a long time. All of a sudden I had a salmon on the line. It seemed like a fish I could handle so I did not get in the boat to go after it in case I couldn't handle it. Well, this fish decided to head across a large pool in the river and there was no way I could hold it. I had 40-50 pound test line on my reel and this fish was peeling it out like nothing. Finally I could see I was coming to the end of my line and I began to set the brakes more. And then the line, which was by now stretched a long way across the river snapped and it sounded like a 22 rifle, and the fish was gone. It could have weighed from 30-50 pounds. I didn't have a chance from shore. Now put leviathan on the other end of the line, and you can see what chance a fishing line would have to bring in this creature. If there is such a thing as a chance being less than zero, this is it.

What is the point? As I interpret the passage, the point is if you can catch leviathan with fishing gear, you also have a chance to humble proud people.

How big is pride? Well, I don't want to take time to expound on this animal. If you would be interested in learning more about this animal, let me advise you to see if you can get access to a set of videos by Kent Hovund. Let us simply read through this chapter and compare this animal to pride (read).

Well, this gives us some idea how big pride is. There is only One who can handle this animal, and that is the One who made him. There is only One who can truly humble man, and that is the One who made him.

Job's response:

So let us look at Job's response to God (read 1-2). First Job says, "I know You can do everything. You can make the proud humble; You can tame behemoth and Leviathan; and you can save me out of my present distress. You can do everything. I see it now." Second Job says, "...and (I know that) that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You." Now this last clause could be viewed two ways. Either it is no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You, or no purpose of mine can be withheld from You.

Against the common view, I think it means that man cannot hide any purpose in his heart from God. The word translated *purpose* here is usually with a bad connotation (see Job. 21:27), and would favor that view. I think Job is acknowledging that God knew the way he was headed.

Then Job says in verse 3, "You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge' ". Job now begins to confess to God (read v.3). Here he acknowledges that he has uttered his opinions on things he did not truly understand. Then he acknowledges that they were things too wonderful for him. I think in the word *wonderful* Job acknowledges that what he thought God had done to his hurt, had been for his good. He had misjudged God's purposes altogether, and he is here admitting it.

Job then says in verse 4, "Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you and you shall answer Me.'" Well, God, you finally have my answer. I will now answer Your question. And here is my answer.

We find it in verse 5, "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear... God, I have known about You. I thought too, that I knew You. But now I realize that so far I have only known about You." Job then goes on to say, "...but now my eye sees You." Job's admission is this: What I thought I knew about You and what You truly are, are two vastly different things. Now I see You in reality. How wrong I have been about You.

And so in verse 6, we have those words that God has waited to hear all along. Job begins like this, "Now that I truly see You for who You are, therefore I abhor myself..." You see, when he got a right view of God, he got a right view of himself. Our view of ourselves is never right until our view of God is right. Maybe I would go further and say that a right view of God brings about humility. Lou Sutera, quoting Dr. James Kennedy says, "Humility is right thinking about God." If that is correct, and I think it is, then pride is a wrong view of God, which brings about a wrong view of myself.

Now after God's first session with Job, in 40:4-5 Job says this: "Behold I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth." In other words, "Lord, you have silenced me." But God did not want to silence him. He wanted an answer. But now in this second time Job is not silenced. He now will say what God waited all the time to hear. He waited for this answer after Job lost all his possessions and again after he lost his family and again after he lost his friends, and yet again after God's first round with him. But now, at long last here are those long sought for words in verse 6, "Therefore, I abhor myself, and I repent in dust and ashes. I am sorry Lord. I am wrong and You are right. I am very sorry."

So I want to ask the question: How does God humble people? Let me say first, that there are two ways to be humbled. We find an illustration of both of these in Luke 14:7-11 (read). The man who took the high seat and was put down lower was humbled. But it was not the kind of humility God is looking for. The man who took the lower seat, we are told in verse 11, humbled himself. That is the kind of humility God is looking for.

How does God humble people? He allows circumstances into their lives in which they can humble themselves, acknowledge God as God, and trust Him. Or they can refuse to humble themselves and do things their own way.

Let me quote from an earlier message we had in Job: "In the OT the word for humble is *anaw* and for humility it is *anawa*. The root idea of this word is *affliction*. The reason humility is connected with the word affliction is that humility is the result of affliction. TWOT says, "*anaw* expresses the intended outcome of affliction: humility." Why is life filled with difficulties? Why was Job suffering? I do not know that there is any other way to humble man, than by afflicting him. Jamieson, Faucet and Brown comment on this verse like this, "Even the godly need to learn the lesson which trials teach, to "*humble* themselves under the mighty hand of God".

You see, God will bring about the circumstances in which I am to humble myself. In Job 40:9 the Lord says to Job, "Can you thunder with a voice like His?" That is like God's voice. When it comes to humbling man, none can thunder with a voice like God's. But who will resist it more than man? Maybe even now the Lord is asking you to humble yourself and ask forgiveness of someone, and you know the battle. It is like the battle with leviathan. "Lay your hand on him; remember the battle - never do it again." That is the fuss we will put up before we humble ourselves.

Now I want you to turn to several Scriptures with me (2 Chron. 7:14; 2 Chron. 33:23; Jer. 13:18; Dan. 10:12; James 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:6). Lou Sutura said nobody ever died swallowing their own pride. As a matter of fact, he said it improve the appetite. Well, when we swallow our pride, we humble ourselves.

Humility is a choice. We notice this from the final words of Job who said, "I abhor myself and I repent." We noted it in all the Scriptures that commanded man to humble himself.

Back to our question: How does God humble man? I believe it is through adverse circumstances. Let us

consider the well known verse, 2 Chronicles 7:14. The Lord says, "...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Now notice the verse immediately before that. The sentence begins like this, "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people..." God had brought about the circumstances, and Israel had the choice to humble themselves.

Let me share with you how the devil has worked in my life not long after I became a Christian. I would forget about God for a while and then when things went wrong I remembered Him again. And then a voice would whisper in my ear, "When things were good you did not care. You can't come to him only when things are bad." And then I would think, "Yeah, that's right. I can't come to him now if I don't walk with Him when things are good." It took some time before I realized that I had listened to the devil. The very reason for which God had allowed the difficult circumstances into my life, I now refused.

Well, God allowed all kinds of difficulties to come into Job's life. And at last, at long last, Job is brought to say these words, "I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore, I abhor myself, and I repent in dust and ashes."

You see, Job's view of God changed. He thought God was out to get him, and now he found that God was out to help him. He found that he had spoken of things too wonderful for him, things he did not know. And when his view of God changed, his view of himself changed and, he said, "I abhor myself." And that brought him to the final solution when he said, "...and I repent in dust and ashes. I am sorry Lord, so sorry."

CONCL: And so I want to bring this message to a close. What did we learn? Pride is so big, that no man can humble man. If he could catch leviathan with a fish hook, then he might

have a chance to humble man, and the chance of that is zero, nil.

And we learned that when Job got a right view of God, and thus a right view of himself, then he repented. And I suggested to you that God uses adverse circumstances to bring us an opportunity to humble ourselves. What circumstances are you in right now? Has God allowed some circumstance into your life where you can right now either trust Him and say, "Lord, I cast this care on You. I trust You to take care of it". Or you can lean on your own understanding and do your own thing.

So let me close by reading two passages of Scripture, 1 Peter 5:5-7 and Philippians 4:6-7.