

Message #29

Job 27:1-23

Job 27 begins the first of two monologues which are absolutely majestic. The first monologue includes chapters 27 and 28, and the second includes chapters 29 to 31. Both begin with the Hebrew word “discourse,” which means Job is presenting an elevated verbal, picturesque monologue which Frederic Godet said is a “burst of poetry never surpassed.”

JOB CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN HIS INTEGRITY OF LIFE AND HIS EXALTED PERSPECTIVE OF GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY AND HE ALSO WARNED OF A FUTURE DESTRUCTION OF HIS WICKED ENEMIES.

Job defends himself, he defends the character of God and he warns the wicked. Now there are three main parts to this chapter:

PART #1 – Job defends his righteous integrity. 27:1-6

Job defends his integrity by presenting two main beliefs:

Belief #1 - What Job believed about God. 2:2-3

Job believed totally and completely in the sovereignty of God. He believed that God was allowing these things to happen to him for some reason. Even though he was experiencing horrible things, he still kept his faith in God and held to some key theological realities:

(Reality #1) - God is a living God. 27:2a

Just because things had gone bad for Job, he did not take a “God is dead” view of life. That is the way many people think. They look at bad things that are happening and start questioning God or doubting God or denying God. Job never did that. He always believed that God was a living God. He could help. He could intervene. He has a plan.

(Reality #2) - God is the One who has taken rights away from Job. 27:2b

God was the One who had taken away “my right.” What Job means by that is for some reason God had determined that the right of Job to be blessed because he was faithful to God had been taken away. What was happening to Job had robbed him of his rights. Job believed all the negative things that hit him came as a result of a sovereign decree of God.

(Reality #3) - God is the One who has caused his soul to become embittered. 27:2c

Job’s soul was troubled. Job was hurting outside and inside and he believed God had done this. God was the One who was causing Job to have such an emotional breakdown.

(Reality #4) - God is the One who continues to give Job life. **27:3**

Job believed that the reason he had not died yet was because God continued to give him life. Job continued to believe that God was the one sustaining his life even though he was going through great suffering. God not only gives life, but He also sustains life.

Job's grasp of the sovereignty of God is amazing. These four sovereign realities about God were things Job thought about. These are four realities we need to think about when our world caves in.

These realities also teach us something significant, God deals with individuals on a personal basis. He is a living God and He is living in your life right now. In fact, our life is not controlled by fate, but by the Living God. The reason we are still here and still alive is because of God. That is what Job believed.

Belief #2 - What Job believed about himself. **27:4-6**

No matter what those guys around Job said, he maintained his integrity and his trust in what was true about himself. There are two impressive realities Job believed:

(Reality #1) - Job would not verbally concede his accusers were right. **27:4-5**

The Hebrew pronoun "you" used in **verse 5** is plural, so Job is aiming this at all these guys. In the mind of Job, for him to concede his friends were right would be something that was unjust and deceitful (**27:4**). It is not a mark of integrity to say something that isn't true and even though Job had lost about everything else, he still had his integrity (**27:5**). You could take away a lot from Job but not his integrity.

Job was not about to admit that the reason for his great suffering was that he was a great sinner. It seems that Job's friends were camped around him just waiting for him to admit that he had done something wrong to bring all of this on. All they wanted him to say is he had been wrong and if he would repent, it would be okay.

But just for hypothetical purposes, let's say Job would have said that just to get those guys off his back. It would not have changed one thing. This was a satanic attack and Satan was trying to get Job to curse God, not admit he had done something wrong before God. Furthermore, had Job conceded the point, he would have forfeited his integrity because it was not true.

There have been times when you will hear someone, who hasn't done a thing wrong, go and apologize to someone else just to try to calm things down. They concede some point just to make the hassle go away. Job would never do that.

There was a woman in one of our churches who used to go to people and say “I forgive you” in hopes the people would say “I am sorry.” She did this to more than one person and when she would go to our people and say “she forgave them” many would say “for what?” They would say, “We haven’t done anything wrong or said anything untrue for which we are sorry.” They would not apologize to some delusional woman anymore than Job would apologize to these delusional friends. Job said at the end of **verse 5** “I will maintain my innocence and integrity until the day I die.”

(Reality #2) - Job continued to hold fast to his righteousness . **27:6**

Job is not talking here about the fact he is sinless. But Job knew he had not done one thing that deserved any of this. He had not fallen into some deep sin that caused God to allow all this trouble to come into his world and he declares that point right here. Job says, “I will maintain my righteousness and not let go of it until the day I die.”

Job had lost much—business, employees, cattle, children, friends, reputation and health. He has lost everything except his righteous integrity. No matter what we go through in life, we should always hold tight to our integrity and never cave to the pressure to forfeit it.

There are some practical observations we want to make from this:

1. It is wrong to agree with people when you agree to something you know is not true.
2. There may be times when you will stand all alone in your integrity and everyone surrounding you thinks you are the problem when in fact you are not the problem.
3. God is totally and completely sovereign in everything in our life so stay faithful and maintain your integrity.

PART #2 – Job rebukes those who oppose him. **27:7-12**

There is some question of who Job is addressing here, but it is cleared up by the pronoun “you” in **verse 11**. The pronoun is plural in Hebrew, which would suggest he is aiming this rebuke at all his “friends” who have leveled charges against him and all others who agree with them. Job unleashes a powerful rebuke that, as one commentator said, is “charged with emotion.”

Rebuke #1 - Job wants God to consider his opponents to be unjust, wicked enemies. **27:7**

Job wanted these guys to know that they hadn’t just shot off their mouths before Job, but also before God. These people had hurt Job so much that Job asks God to view them as his enemy and opponent and to treat them like He would one wicked and unjust.

Rebuke #2 - Job wants them to realize God cuts off the godless without hope . **27:8**

Job’s point here is that godless people shoot off their mouths in a false confidence until they are cut off themselves and when it comes time for one godless to go into eternity, his false confidence and hope will be gone.

Rebuke #3 - Job wants them to realize God does not hear prayers of those godless. **27:9**

Job was right with God and he was constantly talking to God and he lived with the certainty that God was hearing him. But Job also knew that God does not listen to the prayers of godless people. This fact is absolutely true and will later be worked out (Job 42:7-8).

Rebuke #4 - Job wants them to realize that the wicked do not regularly delight in God or pray to God. **27:10**

This rebuke would hit home and hit hard. For the past 20 plus chapters they have been talking about Job's need to confess to God and Job says "I have been talking to God." Job says I do take delight in Almighty God and I do talk to Him at all times.

Now the questions basically ask whether or not they took delight in talking to God and whether or not they were calling to God at all times.

Rebuke #5 - Job wanted them to realize that he was in a position to instruct them. **27:11-12**

These guys had been lecturing Job about God and Job says "I am the one who is in position to lecture you." Job was able to unlock great truths about God, which they had known and seen. They also knew and had seen Job's great ability to unlock the mysteries of God. These guys knew Job could do this and they were running their mouths and acting foolishly.

At the end of this book, these men will make things right with Job. But suppose they hadn't. I am totally convinced if they had not made things right with Job, God would have viewed them as his godless opponents until the day they died and then they would face God and be forced to face Job and make things right.

Now someone might say this is strong language that Job is using. Well who started it? How about the fact that these people made up lies against Job? David Thomas said all these guys had seen the great wisdom of God through Job but were full of "vain babbling." Job had every right to rebuke them.

PART #3 – Job warns what God will ultimately do to the wicked. **27:13-23**

Job says you boys want to talk about what happens to the wicked; well I'll give you a little biblical lecture on the subject. The wicked may prosper for a short time, but in the end, here is what will really happen.

Job agrees that the wicked should receive due retribution and he has just identified them as being wicked (**27:7**). There are some very serious warning predictions given to the wicked as to what will happen to them in the future. These guys had been insinuating Job was wicked, well Job says I want God to view you as wicked because of the lies you have invented about me and here is what He does to one who is really wicked:

Prophetic Warning #1 - Their descendants are destined for continual war. **27:14a**

In O.T. times, children were considered to be a blessing and many children were a real blessing. The children of wicked people are destined to experience terrible and horrible things. They are destined for the sword, which would mean they are destined for trouble, turmoil and war and ultimately death. It is interesting to me that Job mentions the destruction of children, when he had lost his own children. But carefully notice what he says—if it is a judgment of God it is a “sword” judgment. Job’s children did not die by sword, but by tornado. His children were not killed because of a judgment of God, but because of an attack of Satan.

Prophetic Warning #2 - Their descendants are destined for lack of contentment. **27:14b**

The children of wicked people never do find contentment in life. They never find satisfaction because satisfaction and contentment are gifts of God and God will not give those gifts to wicked people.

Prophetic Warning #3 - Their descendants are destined for destruction by Divine plague.
27:15

God causes catastrophes to hit wicked people. In fact, He hits them with so many negative things that they reach a point in which the widows do not cry because they realize this is in fact the wrath of God which was deserved.

Prophetic Warning #4 - He will end up giving to others what he worked so hard to save.
27:16-17

Wicked people invest their lives stockpiling money but in the end, those who are righteous will be the ones who end up rich.

Prophetic Warning #5 - He will live with constant paranoia in his own house. **27:18**

A wicked person will live his entire life in fear because he knows that judgment is coming.

Prophetic Warning #6 - His life will be over quickly and there is no wealth for him in eternity. **27:19**

Wicked people spend their life focused on money. Many of us have been with people who were very close to going into eternity. I would be willing to say that no one here has heard someone about to go into eternity say, “I wish I would have spent more time at work.” I doubt anyone here has heard someone say, “Now that I am about to leave this world, I wish I had invested more time in making more money.”

Prophetic Warning #7 - He lives life in constant fear . **27:20-22**

When storms hit, one wicked cannot cope and does not know how to cope. He lives in constant fear that this is it. If one is not right with God, he had better fear God because there will come a day when he will face God.

The fact is, when one is about to go into eternity, one is about to face God and in this dispensation if one has not believed on Jesus Christ, death is a scary and intimidating proposition. On the other hand, if we have believed on the Lord and have lived our lives in ways that are consistent with Scripture and lived lives of integrity, there is still an intimidation, but the mindset can be "I am ready to face God."

Prophetic Warning #8 - He will be mocked by others. **27:23**

Eventually the God-mocker will be mocked. I cannot help but think of the Italian fascist communist Mussolini, the dictator from 1922-1943. On April 8, 1945, he was shot and hanged in a public square in Milan and people would come and mock him and spit on him. At one time, millions had saluted him, but in the end, they mocked him. That is the way it is for the God-mocker.

Parting Thoughts

1. If we do something wrong, we should admit it; but if we are being accused of doing something wrong and we didn't do it, we should never admit it to the day we die.
2. Even when we are being falsely accused, God is still sovereign.
3. In the end, God will track down and repay every one of your false accusers.