

Message #17**“The Satanic Art of Saying Nothing”****Job 15:1-35**

Many years ago when I was in Grand Rapids, I went to hear one of the supposed great philosophers and educators of our time. The auditorium was packed and there was a sense that something profound was going to take place. People who were sitting around me were almost in suspenseful awe of what they were about to hear. Finally, the man was introduced and I sat there and listened to a lecture that lasted 50-60 minutes. At the end of his talk, he received a thunderous round of applause and a standing ovation. I walked back to my car thinking the man was eloquent, he knew how to use good words and phrases and illustrations and he was obviously educated, but he said absolutely nothing significant. He talked abstractly about life and the pursuit of happiness and he rambled on about this and that, but in the end he said nothing. It was like most political speeches, they say nothing.

Job was listening to these three friends ramble on about this and that and none of it meant anything. As we come to this chapter, we come to round two or response two. In this chapter, Eliphaz takes the verbal offensive again. But this time he goes from bad to worse. At least in the first discourse Eliphaz made some positive assertions about Job, but in this discourse Eliphaz says everything negative about him.

SATAN WILL USE THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU TO VERBALLY ASSAULT YOU MULTIPLE TIMES BUT IN THE END THEY WILL ANSWER TO ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THE HURTFUL THINGS THEY HAVE SAID AND DONE.

Make no mistake about it, these three guys, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, give the appearance they are in tune with God; they are very sincere and appear to be very right, but they are dead wrong. Their words mean nothing. They are false allegations that prove nothing and the only thing these three accomplish is that they anger God.

Now Job had just given a powerful defense to his friends and you would think they would get the memo. You would think they would say we need to quiet down. But they didn't do it. In fact, Eliphaz decides to verbally ramble and give his second speech. This speech breaks down nicely into three main ramblings:

RAMBLING #1 – Eliphaz accuses Job. 15:1-6

Eliphaz decided to take it upon himself to evaluate what Job had just said in the previous three chapters and he levels five charges against Job.

Charge #1 - Eliphaz charges Job with being a wise windbag. 15:2

Eliphaz is accusing Job of being filled with wind and blowing it out of his mouth. According to Eliphaz, Job's words just filled the air with wind and even though Job's words were absolutely true, to Eliphaz they didn't mean a thing and didn't carry any weight.

The “east wind” is gadim, which is the hot wind that comes from the desert.

We live in a world that truly does feature a bunch of windbags who fill the air with stupidity. Many a student will sit in a classroom and listen to a windbag say “we came from apes” or “the world came by a big bang” or “Jesus was a good teacher and prophet, but he wasn’t God.” Those are the true windbags who fill the air with nothing, but Job was not one of them.

Charge #2 - Eliphaz charges Job with speech that is useless and unprofitable . **15:3**

Look at this—Eliphaz is alleging that Job is presenting useless, irrelevant argumentation which means nothing, when in all reality Job is the only one who is telling the truth.

What irony here, because it is Eliphaz and his buddies who are worthless windbags who are setting forth speech that God deems as useless and unprofitable.

This does reveal an important point—how we see ourselves and how God sees us may be two different things. People can give the impression they are so knowledgeable and spiritual when in fact they are plunged into a lifestyle that is sinful and evil.

Charge #3 - Eliphaz charges Job with eliminating and hindering a true relationship with God. **15:4**

This charge is complete nonsense. Job had a greater reverence for God than any of these men ever had. God, Himself, said there was no man like him on this earth. Job had a reverence for God and a trust in his sovereignty when he had lost everything. Job had an ability to truly meditate and think about God’s Word in levels way above and beyond any of these men. This charge that Job was a threat to sabotage sound reverence and worship of God is ludicrous. It all sounds so pious but it is devilish.

When you are committed to understanding God’s truth and doctrines, don’t be surprised if the devil doesn’t send some false accusers into your world who will question your relationship with God and your grasp of God’s Word.

Charge #4 - Eliphaz charges Job with using speech that is guilty and crafty . **15:5**

The charge Eliphaz is making here is that Job has a crafty way of verbally getting around his guilt. He is basically telling Job that he knows how to use sound, theological arguments in a very crafty, sinful, evasive and artful way.

Charge #5 - Eliphaz charges Job with speech that condemns him. **15:6**

Eliphaz says we have no need to look for guilt, your own mouth proves our point; you are guilty, guilty, guilty.

Job had not said one thing that wasn’t true and these guys have no proof of anything they are alleging and yet they are telling Job that he is condemned.

Some key observations:

- 1) This all sounds so good and pious and spiritual, but it is all satanic!
- 2) Eliphaz and his buddies were guilty of everything of which they were accusing Job.
Sometimes people who are guilty themselves accuse you of what they are really guilty of in their own lives.
- 3) Those who are guilty talk a good game, but they offer no proof for the charges they make.

RAMBLING #2 – Eliphaz questions Job. 15:7-16

Dr. Anderson said in this section, Eliphaz gives Job a string of humiliating questions. All of these questions are based on exaggerated assumptions and all of them are designed to humiliate Job. There is no factual proof of anything they have alleged. These questions are not designed to ascertain truth; they are designed by Satan to further crush a faithful man of God. There are seven questions he presents to Eliphaz.

Question #1 - Were you the first human born? 15:7a

Now this does teach us, as we have said all along, that the book of Job was written very early in biblical history. As we said in the introduction, probably around the time frame of Genesis 25. However, this question is absurd. The question probably is given to ridicule the fact that Job had some special relationship with God, as the first born human would have had. Job never claimed he was the first human born.

Question #2 - Were you the first chronologically created? 15:7b

The faulty assumption is if Job is the first created thing, then he would have great insight into the creative work of God and the plan of God. But since he isn't, he doesn't know what he is talking about. His response was way too deep for them theologically, so Eliphaz is attacking his wisdom level.

Question #3 - Are you the only one who knows the secret things of God? 15:8

All that hit Job had come from a secret angelic meeting. Truth is, in many ways the answer to this question is yes. He was wiser in the things of God than these three combined; however, Job had never made such a claim or insinuation.

This reminds me of a pastor I know who was one time charged with being a man who thought he was the only one who actually understood the Bible. The statement was an outright lie. He never believed that or said that. It was a foolish false allegation leveled against him because he was very skilled in his grasp of God's Word. That is the kind of satanic attack happening here.

Question #4 - Aren't we as knowledgeable and as spiritual as you? 15:9-10

Here is a question God will answer and **God's answer to this question will be "no, you aren't."** Eliphaz is attacking Job. Instead of trying to empathize and understand and encourage Job, he is foolishly defending the arrogance and ignorance of his friends.

As his defense, Eliphaz uses their gray hair and age. What we learn here is that just because one has gray hair and is older does not mean he knows God's will or is skilled in God's Word.

Question #5 - Aren't you listening to our godly consolations? **15:11**

Eliphaz is claiming he has insight from God. He is claiming that their point of view is a God-inspired point of view. Eliphaz is saying we have a right to speak to you and you should listen to us. God is not speaking to Job, Satan is speaking to Job.

The fact is they do not have a right because they don't know what they are talking about, which is exactly why God will hold them all accountable. Don't be shocked to discover that people who don't know what they are talking about are able to throw a few Bible verses at you as if they have really deciphered the will of God. They may claim their counsel is godly counsel, but it isn't. They are from Satan and they are accountable for what they say.

Question #6 - Why are you drawing away from God and turning against God? **15:12-13**

This is total nonsense. Job's heart was true and pure. He was not being drawn away from God. It is true a man's heart will carry one away from God. But this was not true for Job. This was satanic speculation and allegation against one faithful. Job did have honest questions, but his heart still believed in God and in his redeemer.

Question #7 - How can you think you are pure and righteous when no man is? **15:14-16**

Job never claimed he was sinless. He claimed he had not done anything to deserve the present suffering. Eliphaz is so piously theological here discussing the fact that compared to God's holiness in heaven, man is totally depraved. In fact, he implies Job is detestable and corrupt and one who drinks iniquity like water.

RAMBLING #3 – Eliphaz lectures Job. **15:17-35**

Here is a lecture that is about as ridiculous to listen to as it is to listen to a lecture on evolution. In versus **17-19**, Eliphaz claims that he alone has figured out the mystery of Job's suffering and Job needs to listen to him. As his proof, he says that he has come to these conclusions because he has seen these things (v. 17) and also wise men have told him (v. 18) and his information is pure truth, not influenced by any alien in the land (v. 19). Eliphaz presents 15 lecture points, some of which are true and some of which are false. As it relates to Job it is all false:

Point #1 - The wicked will live a shortened life and a painful life. **15:20** = false

Point #2 - The wicked will live a terrified life that lacks tranquility. **15:21** = false

Point #3 - The wicked do not have any hope of deliverance. **15:22** = true

Point #4 - The wicked live a life that lacks contentment due to pending judgment.

15:23 = false

Point #5 - The wicked live a distressed life because he has arrogantly opposed God.

15:24-25 = false

Point #6 - The wicked are insanely hostile against God, even charging Him. **15:26** = true

Point #7 - The wicked are self-sufficient and self-indulgent. **15:27** = true

Point #8 - The wicked live in places cursed by God. **15:28** = true

Point #9 - The wicked do not gain an enduring wealth. **15:29** = true

Point #10 - The wicked will not escape the judgment of God. **15:30** = true

Point #11 - The wicked deceptively trusts in himself. **15:31** = true

Point #12 - The wicked will not live to a ripe old age. **15:32** = false

Point #13 - The wicked will go into eternity with an unfruitful life. **15:33** = true

Point #14 - The wicked will end up barren. **15:34** = true

Point #15 - The wicked have minds that are dark and deceptive. **15:35** = true

Eliphaz is deceptive and twisted. He is forceful, logical and wrong.

Satanic people twist and distort truth and the application of it. They say things that are true, aren't true and are partially true, but they don't tell the whole truth.

We need to carefully watch out for people who pretend to be our close friends. Satan can use their speech to get us off track and pull us down. We need to stay focused on God's Word and will.

Steven Lawson gives good advice as to how to comfort people (*Job*, pp. 139-140):

- 1) Shorten your words—silence does console.
- 2) Season your words—use kind, sensitive words.
- 3) Scrutinize your words—use words that are accurate biblically.