

Lament vs. Despair
Job #5 | Ch. 3, various
July 5, 2020

Introduction

- Amazing start | Job 1:1, 1:8, 1:21-22, 2:3, 2:10
- Rebuke and repentance | Job 38:2-3, 40:4-5, 40:7-8, 42:6
- Confusing affirmation after rebuke | Job 42:7

How are we to think about Job: good, bad, or mixture?
What is it about Job's heart and mind that lands him in trouble?
What can we learn?

The Saddest Lament | Job 3

Job Accuses God of Being...

1. Unfair | Job 9:22-24
2. Unable to understand | Job 10:4-7
3. Controlling | Job 14:5-6, 7:17-19

Job's Ultimate Defense | Job 31

Job 31 ³⁵ If only I had someone to hear my case! Here is my signature; let the Almighty answer me. Let my Opponent compose his indictment. ³⁶ I would surely carry it on my shoulder and wear it like a crown. ³⁷ I would give him an account of all my steps; I would approach him like a prince.

- (Elihu) **Job 34** ⁵ For Job has declared, "I am righteous, yet God has deprived me of justice.
- (God) **Job 40** ⁸ ...Would you declare me guilty to justify yourself?
- *Job moved from lament into despair because his self-reliance and self-righteousness*

Christopher Ash Job shows us a man with a clear conscience, walking a life of obedient faith and love for God, walking—as the Apostle John will put it—"in the light." And yet when suffering comes there are residues of sin within him that come to light. The human heart is "deceitful," and a clear conscience is not a guarantee of sinlessness. Indeed, the human heart has been compared to a container of water with a residue of mud at the bottom. When all is calm, we see the clear water at the top and think there is just pure water within. But when the container is stirred and shaken, the mud swirls around and before long becomes visible, making it clear that all was not as pure as had been thought. It is therefore possible to have a clear conscience and to walk in daily repentance of known sin, while yet being a sinner at heart. This is the case for Job, and it explains how he can at the same time be affirmed and rebuked, indeed affirmed for speaking rightly of God while being rebuked for speaking wrongly about God!

Big idea: The most spiritually dangerous place to be is convinced of our own righteousness.

If Only Job Had Known About Jesus

1. Job wanted to be left alone, but God said “no” and sent his Son
2. Job said that God couldn’t understand because he wasn’t a human, so God became man
3. Job said that he didn’t do anything wrong, but Jesus literally never did anything wrong
4. Job said that God was unjust, but the cross proves God’s justice
5. Job longed for death’s “peace,” but Jesus rose from the dead and promises resurrection
6. Job wanted transactional relationship, but Jesus came with grace and mercy

Application

1. Live a godly life full of integrity, good deeds, service to the poor, but...
2. Never put your faith in that, and...
3. Never lose the healthy question of your own heart or motives.

1 Corinthians 4 ⁴For I am not conscious of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵So don’t judge anything prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then praise will come to each one from God.