

Message #18

Job 16:1-22

Steven Lawson told a story of Pepper Rogers, who was at one time the head football coach at UCLA. He was going through a terrible losing season and he was being attacked by the media. The alumni of the school were calling for his resignation. His friends were becoming very scarce and there were rumblings within his staff. Nothing was working. Week after week he was handed setbacks and defeats. In fact, Pepper Rogers got so low that he didn't even think his wife was encouraging him enough. He said to his wife, "My dog is my best friend. But a man needs at least two friends." She replied, "Go buy another dog" (*Job*, p. 143).

When you are hurting and when you are losing and things aren't running the way you wished they would, there will always be those who will make things worse. They will not give you moral support, emotional support or any encouragement. That was the way it was for Job.

Job's friends were attacking him in devastating ways. They were not only attacking him emotionally and morally, but they were attacking his spirituality. They were harsh and insulting and they would not shut their mouths.

It is very draining and fatiguing to always have to defend yourself. You just want to be left alone to regroup, but Satan has his agents and he will send them into your world to rip you to shreds. Job had enough. He was getting tired of listening to these three so called friends ramble on about things they knew nothing about. He was sick and tired of their false accusations and so what Job does here is stand his ground and defend the truth. What we see here is that:

SOMETIMES IT IS FITTING AND RIGHT FOR A MAN OF GOD WHO HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG TO DEFEND HIMSELF AND VERBALLY REBUKE HIS ACCUSERS.

Certainly Jesus Christ did this. There were times He called people "vipers, white-washed sepulchers and hypocrites." Jesus Christ called people evil and adulterous and told people they were going to hell (i.e. Mt. 23:33). The difference between what Christ said about His accusers and what they said about Him was His testimony was true and theirs was false.

There are four points of communication we see in this chapter:

COMMUNICATION POINT #1 – Job answers his friends. 16:1-6

Job does not mince words here. He looks his friends straight in the eyes and tells them the truth. Job gives them seven charges:

Charge #1 - You all say the same things. **16:2a**

All three of these guys were saying the same thing. Job had heard it all before. They were all saying he had secret sin in his life and if he confessed it God would lift the judgment against him. Problem is Job did not have any secret sin in his life. He had done nothing to deserve this and he was pure and right in his relationship with God.

People being led of the devil often use the same language and say the same things. They are like a broken record. They make the same allegations over and over again. They offer no proof or evidence but they talk and talk as if they know what they are talking about.

Charge #2 - You are sorry comforters. **16:2b**

Notice that Job says “all” are sorry comforters. The Hebrew word “sorry” (amal) is one that means they are sorry in the sense of troubling or wearying one with a heavy weight (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 639).

Instead of them standing with Job and defending his character and ministering to Job and comforting him, they increased his sorrow and trouble by their verbal attacks. They added more weight to Job’s misery. They did this by their words. Words have the power to do this kind of thing.

Charge #3 - You are unlimited windbags . **16:3a**

These men all felt like they had to speak. They shot off their mouths and filled the air with words that meant nothing. From God’s perspective these three were empty windbags.

There are some people who are very eloquent in being able to say nothing.

Charge #4 - You have some plague that must speak. **16:3b**

Job basically asks, what is wrong with you people; what plagues you people that you seem to think you need to run your mouth?

Each man felt like he had to speak and it was like a plague that destroys. Each person felt led to speak against Job. Each person really believed he had something important to say in his attack against Job. Job had lost his wealth, children and health and reputation and each one of these men truly felt like it was their responsibility to say something. Just because one feels something doesn’t make it right or from God. This plague was coming directly from Satan.

Charge #5 - Job could have done the same thing to his friends. **16:4**

Job says if things were reversed, I too could respond like you windbags. Job could invent, create and compose words against them and he could shake his head in disgust against them.

Charge #6 - Job could have done differently with his friends. **16:5**

Job basically said I would not operate like you. If the tables had been turned, Job would have also used his speech to lessen pain, not increase it; to strengthen a brother and not weaken him.

Job says you have options as to what you can say when a faithful person is hurting. You can use your speech to hurt and destroy or you can use it to help.

This is a great point to remember when you visit someone in the hospital. You can use your speech to empathize, encourage or strengthen or you can use it to make things worse.

Charge #7 - Job has nothing to gain by saying these things. **16:6**

Job's response gained him nothing. This is important. Job had nothing to gain or lose by these charges. It did not lessen his pain. There was no relief by his speech or by his silence.

There are moments in life in which we will reach a point where we say, "What do I have to lose." Sometimes it is right to lay it all on the line and say what you think if it is true. That is what Job is doing. His friends had no right to say anything, but Job did.

COMMUNICATION POINT #2 – Job discusses his God. **16:7-14**

In these verses, Job stopped talking about his friends and he started talking about his God. **What we cannot help but be impressed with during this discussion is Job's continued view of the sovereignty of God.** Not once does he curse God, but he continues to maintain an awesome view of God's sovereignty, even in his own suffering. There are nine facts Job believed about God:

(Faith Fact #1) - God has sovereignly brought Job to the point of exhaustion. **16:7a**

(Faith Fact #2) - God has sovereignly permitted his company to be a waste. **16:7b**

(Faith Fact #3) - God has sovereignly permitted Job to physically deteriorate. **16:8**

(Faith Fact #4) - God has sovereignly permitted Job to be attacked by an adversary. **16:9**

(Faith Fact #5) - God has sovereignly permitted Job's adversaries to verbally attack him.
16:10

(Faith Fact #6) - God has sovereignly permitted Job to be dominated by those wicked. **16:11**

(Faith Fact #7) - God has sovereignly permitted Job to be taken from a life of ease to a target of chaos. **16:12**

(Faith Fact #8) - God has sovereignly permitted Job to be attacked physically . **16:13**

(Faith Fact #9) - God has sovereignly permitted Job to be persistently attacked. **16:14**

COMMUNICATION POINT #3 – Job describes himself. **16:15-17**

There are five descriptions that Job gives of himself:

Description #1 - Job was completely humiliated . **16:15**

Job was so humiliated he had to sew his own sackcloth garment to wear. No one even helped him with that responsibility. He had tossed off his horn hat. David Thomas writes, “A horn made of silver was worn both by males and females in the East as an emblem of strength and honor” (*Studies In Job*, p. 215). What Job is saying is that I am completely humiliated.

Description #2 - Job was emotionally depressed. **16:16a**

Job would literally cry himself to sleep.

Description #3 - Job was physically deteriorated. **16:16b**

His eyes had a darkened, sunken look, which manifested all kinds of physical problems.

Description #4 - Job had done nothing violent to deserve this. **16:17a**

Job had never violently attacked anybody. He was not a violent person.

Description #5 - Job was absolutely pure in his life and in his prayers. **16:17b**

Job had a clean relationship with God. He could pray in purity.

COMMUNICATION POINT #4 – Job’s desire for himself. **16:18-22**

Samuel Cox called this a “sublime invocation.” Job had four personal desires:

Personal Desire #1 - Job had a desire for vindication . **16:18**

Job did not just want to die and be covered in the ground. He wanted someone to hear him and believe in him. He wanted some sort of vindication. He wanted someone to go on the offensive for him.

Personal Desire #2 - Job had an advocate in heaven. **16:19**

Job believed in a heavenly watch and witness and a heavenly advocate.

Job knew that God was a just God and witness. He knew that He saw everything and that he had an advocate who could clear him.

There are two terms in this verse that Job uses to describe one in heaven that he hoped would help him: 1) He was a heavenly witness; 2) He was a heavenly advocate.

Personal Desire #3 - Job had a desire to speak with God, not his friends. **16:20-21**

Job did not look to his friends for any support, he looked to God. Instead of Job's friends pleading with God on Job's behalf, they were scoffers. The only one Job could speak with was God.

Personal Desire #4 - Job had a desire to live life for a few years and then die. **16:22**

Here is an interesting O.T. view of life and death. One lives life for a few years and then dies and life is over and you do not come back and live it again.

The only person Job could talk to was God. God was the only one who would listen to Job and Job would eventually discover God was enough. When you find yourself all alone with no one to turn to but God, you will find God is enough for you.

PARTING LESSONS:

- 1. Get away from people who give negative bad counsel.**
- 2. Get near people who give godly true counsel.**
- 3. Use speech to lift burdens from people, not heap more burdens on people.**
- 4. Realize that God is listening to all of our conversations.**
- 5. Realize that God is sovereign over everything in our world.**
- 6. Use speech to pray for one another.**
- 7. Always maintain an unshakeable trust in the sovereignty of God.**