

JOB: Man Of God
, 2005
Message 10
Scripture reading Job 40:1-14

INTRO: We have come to the heart of the book of Job. I told you this book is written like a good novel. We are now in the section that if you come to this section in a good novel, you cannot put the book down. It is like being in a good playoff series in hockey and you are in the seventh game in overtime, and the power goes off. You can't have that happen! That is the place we have arrived in this book. In these two chapters we will find out what it is all about, and just maybe, we will get to see ourselves in them.

After God had shown Job a few things from inanimate creation and then from the animal world He said to Job, "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it." Job, you have contended with Me and you have rebuked Me. Now from what I have shown you, answer Me how you figure that?" And Job, who thought he would answer the Almighty like a prince says, "Behold, I am vile. What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth."

But God is not satisfied with that. Out of all that has happened to Job, Job has not yet come to the point God wants him. Job has come a little way. He is no longer exalting himself against God, but he has not yet arrived where he needs to arrive. I believe God will in these next 2 chapters, reveal something horrifying to Job. Something so horrific, that Job will finally say what God has sought to bring him to all along.

So we are continuing Job's testings by God Himself.

C. By God continued(38:39-40:5)

Job 40:6-14 was read for us earlier. Now notice that verses 6-7 are exactly like 38:1 and 3. I want to in a later message address a question that has come to me, and that is, is verse 2 addressed to Job or Elihu. But God here once more calls on Job to prepare himself like a man because He will question Job and Job is to answer Him.

So let us read verses 7-9 again. It seems to me that God is now summarizing what he has heard Job saying when he defended himself before his friends. First, Job had annulled God's judgment. He thought God was unjust in allowing him to suffer all these things. So he was righteous, but God unrighteous. Second, by justifying himself rather than God, he was condemning God. And third, he seems to have had the idea that he was a man of some ability.

So God will now give Job a chance to flex his spiritual muscles by setting up for him the toughest job God has in the whole universe. He says, "If you think you have an arm like God, and you can thunder with a voice like God (that is to get men to listen and obey), then here is my challenge to you (read 10-14).

In verse 9 God says, "Do you have an arm like God?" The question is, "Are you able to do what God is able to do?" Second, "Can you thunder with a voice like His?" Now what is in view? What is God talking about? Was He questioning if Job is able to create the universe like He did? Was that the ability God was talking about? No. He is talking about pride in man. He is saying that if Job thinks he has some ability, then he should try to humble man. I think there may be a sense in which God is saying, "My biggest job; my most difficult task is not creating things out of nothing. My biggest task is humbling man. That is more difficult than creating the universe."

So in verse 10, I think God is saying, "You think you have some ability, then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor. Array yourself with glory and beauty. Then disperse the rage of your wrath. Look on everyone that is proud, and humble him. Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low. Tread down the wicked in their place. Bring both the wicked and the proud to the dust in humble contrition. And if you can do this, I am going to sit back and say, 'This man can save himself. He does not need me. He is like God. I told the devil, 'there is no one like Job' but even I did not know just how good he really is.'"

Now notice that God says in verse 11, "Disperse the rage of your wrath." Why? Because Job is to deal with pride and God hates nothing more than pride. Pride is absolutely the most despicable thing there is before God. Psalm 119:21 says of God, "You rebuke the proud - the cursed, who stray from Your commandments." In 1 Peter 5:5-7, Peter writes this, "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

Lou Sutera said pride is not only a sin, but it is the very heart of sin. And again, he said that pride is the most difficult sin to diagnose. If that is true, that means if we have pride we probably don't realize we have it. James M. Barrie has said, "Life is a long lesson in humility."

And I think what God is seeking to do here is by challenging Job to humble man, he will learn that he himself has a tumor of pride. You see, sometimes in counseling others, one begins to recognize things in one's own life. And God will take some time driving this message home. But when He is done, we will hear Job utter those words God waited to hear right from the very beginning. He waited to hear them after Job lost all his possessions. He waited to hear them again when Job lost all his children. Here was God's great work in humbling Job, and still Job could not hear God. All he could see was his own goodness. Then God waited to hear him repent when his friends came to talk to him, but still he retained his righteousness. Then he waited for Job to respond after Elihu had spoken to Job, and he mentioned this very problem; still nothing. Then he waited to hear him after God had spoken to him of animate and inanimate creation, and Job got close, but he is not yet there. And now He will wait to hear the right response from Job when He has shown Job the depth of pride in the human heart; even in the heart of the most righteous man on earth!

Oh pride! Thou almost almighty sin! I have asked earlier: Why did God write this book the very first of all? (We think it is written first.) I believe it is because here, in a most eloquent manner God shows man this almost almighty sin. God shows us that which lurks in every human heart. God shows us the darkest, vilest sin, and how it pervades even the most righteous.

Lou Sutura speaks of the young man who said, "I want to be used of God. I want to love his Word. I have some pride, but this is not my main problem." But pride is not "a" sin. It is the very heart of sin. Lou points out that our English word pride has the big I right in the middle. Sin too, has the I in the middle. Pride and gratitude do not live in the same heart. Ask yourself, "How thankful am I?" And if there is not much gratitude, then how is it otherwise than that the heart is full of pride? What does God think about pride. It stirs up such a stink to Him that it wants to make Him vomit. God hates pride. It is anti God. Pride is simply self centeredness.

Some time ago I was given photocopies of several pages in a book written by Nancy Leigh DeMoss called, "Brokenness: The Heart God Revives." In her little book she asks, "Are you a 'broken Christian?' Then she gives a list of characteristics of pride. Based on these characteristics, how would you answer question: Am I a broken Christian? How would those in your family or your workplace respond if they were asked, 'Is he/she a broken Christian?' Most important, what would God say?" Well, let me read them for you. You may not agree with all of them, but just let God speak to your heart where He wishes.

1. Proud people focus on the failures of others and can readily point out those faults. *Broken people are more conscious of their own spiritual need than of anyone else's.*

2. Proud people have a critical, faultfinding spirit. They look at everyone else's faults with a microscope but view their own with a telescope. *Broken people are compassionate - they have the kind of love that overlooks a multitude of sins;*

they can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.

3. Proud people are especially prone to criticize those in positions of authority - their pastor, their boss, their husband, their parents - and talk to others about the faults they see. *Broken people reverence, encourage, and lift up those that God has placed in positions of authority, and they talk to God in intercession, rather than gossiping about the faults they see in others.*

4. Proud people are self-righteous; they think highly of themselves and look down on others. *Broken people think the best of others; they esteem others as better than themselves.*

5. Proud people have an independent, self-sufficient spirit. *Broken people have a dependent spirit; they recognize their need for God and for others.*

6. Proud people have to prove they are right - they have to get the last word. *Broken people are willing to yield the right to be right.*

7. Proud people claim rights and have a demanding spirit. *Broken people yield their rights and have a meek spirit.*

8. Proud people are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation. *Broken people are self-denying and self-sacrificing.*

9. Proud people desire to be served - they want life to revolve around them and their own needs. *Broken people are motivated to serve others and to be sure others' needs are met before their own.*

10. Proud people desire to be known as a success. *Broken people are motivated to be faithful and to make others successful.*

11. Proud people have a feeling - conscious or subconscious - that "This ministry (or this organization) is privileged to have me and my gifts." They focus on what they can do for God. *Broken people have a heart attitude that says, "I don't deserve to have any part in this ministry" they know that they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives.*

12. Proud people crave self-advancement. *Broken people desire to promote others.*

13. Proud people have a drive to be recognized and appreciated for their efforts. *Broken people have a sense of their own unworthiness; they are thrilled that God would use them at all.*

14. Proud people get wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked. *Broken people are eager for others to get the credit, and they rejoice when others are lifted up.*

15. Proud people are elated by praise and deflated by criticism. *Broken people know that any praise of their accomplishments belongs to the Lord and that criticism can help them grow into spiritual maturity.*

16. Proud people feel confident in how much they know. *Broken people are humbled by how very much they have to learn.*

17. Proud people are self-conscious; they worry about what others think of them. *Broken people are not preoccupied with what others think of them.*

18. Proud people are concerned about appearing respectable; they are driven to protect their image and reputation. *Broken people are concerned with being real; they care less about what others think than about what God knows - they are willing to die to their own reputation.*

19. Proud people can't bear to fail or for anyone to think they are less than perfect. This

can drive them to extremes - workaholic tendencies, perfectionism, the tendency to drive others or to place unrealistic expectations on themselves or others. *Broken people can recognize and live within God-given limitations.*

20. Proud people keep others at arm's length. *Broken people are willing to take the risks of getting close to others and loving intimately.*

21. Proud people are quick to blame others. *Broken people accept personal responsibility and can acknowledge where they were wrong in a situation.*

22. Proud people wait for others to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or a breach in a relationship. *Broken people take the initiative to be reconciled, no matter how wrong the other party may have been.*

23. Proud people are unapproachable or defensive when corrected. *Broken people receive correction with a humble open spirit.*

24. Proud people find it difficult to discuss their spiritual needs with others. *Broken people are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs.*

25. Proud people try to control the people and the circumstances around them - they are prone to manipulate. *Broken people trust in God - they rest in Him and are able to wait for Him to act on their behalf.*

26. Proud people become bitter and resentful when they are wronged; they have emotional temper tantrums; they hold others hostage and are easily offended; they carry grudges and keep a record of other's wrongs. *Broken people give thanks in all things; they are quick to forgive those who wrong them.*

27. Proud people want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned; their instinct is to cover up. *Broken people aren't overly*

concerned with who knows or who finds out about their sin - they are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose.

28. Proud people have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?" Broken people are quick to admit their failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.

29. Proud people tend to deal in generalities when confessing their sin to God ("Dear Lord, please forgive me for all my sins..." or expressing spiritual need to others ("I need to become a better Christian..."). Broken people are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin: "Lord, I agree with you that I love myself more than I love my mate; I confess that I am addicted to television; I'm a glutton; I have a critical spirit; I am angry with my mother..."

30. Proud people are concerned about the consequences of their sin. They are disturbed over problems caused by their sin - for example, the financial bondage created by overspending, or the problems in their marriage that have resulted from selfishness and immoral choices. Broken people are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin. They are more concerned about how their sin has grieved and dishonored God than about the problems it has created in their lives.

31. Proud people are remorseful over their sin - sorry that they got caught or found out. Broken people are truly repentant over their sin, and the evidence of their repentance is that they forsake sin.

32. Proud people are blind to the true condition of their hearts. Broken people walk in the light and acknowledge the truth about their lives.

33. Proud people compare themselves with others and feel worthy of respect. Broken people compare themselves with the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy.

34. Proud people don't think they need to repent of anything. *Broken people realize that they need to maintain a continual heart attitude of repentance.*

35. Proud people don't think they need revival, but they are sure everyone else does. (In fact, right about now, they are making a mental list of the people they think need to read this book *or hear this message!*) *Broken people continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit.*

So let me ask this question again: Based on these characteristics, how would you answer the question: Am I a broken Christian? How would those in your family or your workplace respond if they were asked, 'Is he/she a broken Christian?' Most important, what would God say?"

CONCL: God has brought to light in our passage this morning, the most horrible sin in the universe. And yet it lives in so many many a heart. Here is Job, of whom God said, "There is none like him. He is blameless and upright, and fears God and shuns evil." And yet, it appears from the book of Job, that even then, there was a tumor beginning to grow in Job, a tumor that could lead to full blown pride and the final ruin of this man. And so God began to do preventive maintenance in Job, in order to deliver him from this pit, as Elihu put it. I wonder what may be in your life right now that you say, "Oh God why? Take this away from me. I don't need it." And God may be saying, "You know better what you need than I? Would you annul my judgment? You think you could run your life better than I? Then I have a challenge for you. Search out the proud and the wicked, and make them humble. If you can do that then I will agree that you know what you need in your life better than I do. As a matter of fact, you can then save yourself. You no longer need Me."

If the Lord spoke to you in that list of pride indicators we read earlier, then I want to give a moment to talk to God about it. And maybe the Lord showed you this morning why some of the things are in your life that are there. Then why not humbly bow before Him and say, "Thank You Lord."