

THE GREAT QUESTION ANSWERED

JOB 25:4-6 • TV225B

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Job 25:4-6

“How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman? Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight. How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?”

I brought this message to our congregation a few weeks ago; I entitled it: **“THE GREAT QUESTION ANSWERED.”**

God was pleased to give me great liberty as I brought this message the first time several weeks ago. I’m much in prayer today that He will be pleased to take this message and speak to your heart because it is of the most vital importance.

I feel so very keenly about this business of preaching. I feel like that we have relegated preaching to the scrapheap. We are spending our time in churches today entertaining sinners on their road to hell.

We have too much music, too many contests, too many socials and too many ballgames. We have too much promotion and too much recognition of the flesh. We have too much begging for money and too little preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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JOB 25:4-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

By God's grace and with the Spirit's unction and help, I am going to present to you today the most vital question. I am going to present to you a great and important question. Then, by God's grace, I am going to answer that question.

Someone wrote me one time and said, "How about giving the text two or three times so that we will have time to find it; all right, here it is in **Job 25: verses 4 through 6**."

Now listen to it; "*How then can man be justified?*" The word "*justified*" means (holy and without sin that is acceptable before God); *how can man be justified*, (clean, holy, and without blame), *in the sight of God?*"

"How can he be clean that is born of a woman? Behold; even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea; the stars are not pure in God's sight. How much less man that is a worm and the son of man which is a worm?"

This question is asked over and over again in the **Book of Job**. I just didn't reach into the **Book of Job** and pull out a question that is asked just one time. This question is asked four times in the **Book of Job**.

Listen to **Chapter 4:17**; it is almost the same thing, "*Shall mortal man be more just than God? Behold; God puts no trust in his servants. His angels he charges with folly. How much less does he put confidence in men that dwell in houses of clay?*"

Listen to **Job 9:2**; "*How should man be just before God?*" How? In **Job 15:14**, the Scripture says; "*what is man that he should be clean or he that is born of a woman that he should be righteous? The heavens are not clean in God's sight. How much more abominable and filthy, is man who drinks iniquity like the water.*" Do you know what that word is for "*filthy*"? In the marginal reference it means stinking; "*how much more filthy (stinking) is man who drinks iniquity like the water.*"

Now, let me tell you this and the reason men are asking; "*who shall stand in His presence; he that hath clean hands and a pure heart who has never lifted up his soul to vanity?*"

In order to stand in God's presence, in God's fellowship and communion, man has to be pure, holy, and clean, without stain, spot or blemish. That is the reason we are asking this question.

So, four times he asks this question; "*how can men be just with God? How can he be clean that is born of a woman? How can he be righteous in the sight of God?*"

You find the answer to that question and you will find rest. You will find peace, salvation, and you will find acceptance with God. That is what Paul is saying in **2 Corinthians 5:9**; "*wherefore, we labor, (we endeavor) whether present or absent to be accepted of Him.*"

THE GREAT QUESTION ANSWERED

JOB 25:4-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

I am not concerned about being accepted with you or you with me; this is not our problem. I labor, I endeavor, to be accepted of Him. God is my judge. I have one life to live, one death to die, and one meeting with God at the judgment and an eternity to spend.

What do I care what men think? How can I be justified with God; that is my question? How can I be clean in His sight?

I will tell you something else; find the answer to that great question and you know the Gospel, how God can be just and justify the ungodly. Find the answer to this question and you have something to preach. Up to that point you don't have anything to preach, that is exactly right!

Here is the good news, how a man can be just with God, how a man can be clean in God's sight, and how a man can be accepted of God. That is the good news. Up to that point you don't have anything to tell.

You may tell people to go out and witness, but if you don't know the answer to that question you don't have anything to say. There is nothing but bad news, error, heresy or apostasy.

There are two questions my friend; listen to me, there are two questions that give birth to this great question. The great question is, "*how can man be just with God? How can a sinner be clean in God's sight?*"

The two questions that make this difficult to answer is this; just how holy is God and just how sinful is man; how big of a sinner is man?

Do you see those two questions? That is what gives birth to the great question, how holy is God, how sinful is man, how high is God, and how low is man?

We are not going to make much headway in finding a solution if we don't understand the problem. This is what is wrong with most preaching today. The preachers themselves do not understand the problem.

It is just like when our Lord said to the preachers in His day, "*you don't know me or my Father. You are ever learning and never coming to the knowledge of the truth.*"

A cure is not likely to be found if we have no knowledge of the disease. That is what all the science and medical people are doing; they are trying to find a cure. They have to find something out about the disease.

The average person doesn't know that he has a problem. He has reached up and brought God down and lifted himself up and they have met on one plane. They say, "God votes for me and the devil votes against me and I cast the deciding vote; are all three on the same plane."

THE GREAT QUESTION ANSWERED

JOB 25:4-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

He does not know how holy God is. He doesn't know how far he is from God. He doesn't know how sinful he is. He doesn't even know that God has declared that "*your sins have separated you and your God.*"

How holy is God, just how holy is this God? Let me tell you, God is so holy that even Moses, (you are not like Moses and neither am I), could not look upon God and live. That is what God said to him; He said in **Exodus 33:20, 22**. "*You can't see my face for no man will see my face and live. Hide in the cleft of the rock and I will cover you while I pass by.*"

Moses was in the presence of God as He gave him the law and the testimony. He came down off of that mountain and his face was so aglow. His countenance was shining with such power that the children of Israel couldn't even look on him. He had to put a veil on his face so that they could look at him.

I hear preachers say, "I was with the Lord all night and the Lord said this to me and the Lord said that to me."

Let me tell you something; if God almighty ever spoke directly to you in His presence apart from His holy Word, it would turn your hair white as snow and you would be trembling the next six months. No one on this earth could look on your face; it would glow with the presence, the radiance and reflective glory, of almighty God.

Study the Word a little bit about those who were in the presence of God. "*God is Holy.*" He is so holy that when Uzza reached up to touch the ark, he died.

Do you remember the Ark of the Covenant? David was bringing it back to Jerusalem. There were some rules and regulations about how to carry that Ark. It was not suppose to be on that oxen's cart anyway; it was suppose to be on the shoulders of the priest.

Uzza reached up to catch it when the ox cart hit a ditch and stumbled and God smote him dead for just touching the Ark. That is how holy God is in just touching it.

God is so holy that the great king Uzziah was stricken with leprosy and died because the king went into the holy place and made like he was going to offer a sacrifice in the place of the priest and God killed him.

God is so holy that the heavenly seraphim cover their faces and cover their feet in His presence and cry, "*holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God.*"

God is so holy that righteous Job of whom God Himself said, "*He is a man that avoids evil and loves righteousness.*" Even righteous Job when God appeared to him in the whirlwind cried out, "*I hate myself; I abhor myself. I put my hand on my mouth; I will never speak again. Mine eyes have seen the Lord.*"

THE GREAT QUESTION ANSWERED

JOB 25:4-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Isaiah said, when he saw the Lord, *“I am undone. I am unclean; I am cut off.”* God is so holy that the beloved John fell down at His feet paralyzed when he heard His voice on the Isle of Patmos.

God is so holy that Paul came back from the third heaven and said, “I can’t even tell you what I heard. It is impossible for me to put in words the holy atmosphere of that awful place.” He didn’t tell about what he saw.

God is so holy that He deserted His own Son when He became sin and hung on the cross. How holy is God? *“The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence.”*

Religious people just pick up another song book and throw it or walk on another pew or scream, “whoopee,” a little louder; somebody give Jesus a great, big, hand.” That is not the God of the Bible. *“He is holy!”*

Zephaniah said, *“Hold your peace in the presence of the Lord; God is holy.”* This generation has been thrown a curve by this generation of covetousness, money-mad, popularity seeking preachers, who compromise the character of a holy God.

We have brought God down to where He is just a co-pilot, now. *“He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords whom the heavens won’t contain and the earth is his footstool.”* He is the one of whom David wrote, *“Let the people praise thy great and terrible name, for thou art holy O God. Exalt ye the Lord our God and worship at His footstool; he is holy.”*

The old Jews wouldn’t even pronounce His name, “God, Elohim; they called Him, *“Jehovah, God my Saviour.”*

No sir, this generation does not know God. We are further from God than we have ever been. I don’t know whether He will smile on us or not because we have compromised His character and compromised His great name.

We have made light of His glory and of His holiness. *“God is holy.”* It is the holy Bible that we read. When the priest went into the presence of God there was a miter that read, *“Holiness unto the Lord.”*

His angels are called the *“holy angels.”* The tabernacle is a *“holy tabernacle, a holy place, and the holy of holies.”* His Son called Him, *“Holy Father.”*

We call some imposter across the water, “holy father.” We are confused. How holy is God? He is infinitely, perfectly, unchangeably, immaculately, eternally, holy. He is beyond reproach. I will tell you this; He is beyond approach also; He is not approachable in the flesh.

How sinful is man? This is the reason that men ask these questions, *“How can man be justified in His holy presence?”* How can we be clean? *“The stars don’t shine in His presence. The moon is not pure in His sight. He charges His angels with foolishness. How much more abominable and filthy is man.”*

How sinful is man? “*God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart are continually evil.*” Oh, you have dressed up the outward flesh, “*but God looks on the heart.*”

You have smiled while you have hated in your heart. You have said kind words while you have cursed in your heart. God does not look on the outward countenance. He is not fooled by whited sepulchers.

In **Psalm 14**, “*the Lord looked down from heaven on the children of men to see if any did understand. They are all gone aside; they are altogether become filthy.*” There’s that word again, stinking. “*There are none that doeth good, no not one.*”

“*Behold; I was shapen in iniquity. In sin my mother conceived me. The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born speaking lies. In the flesh no man can please God.*”

We can please each other, justify ourselves with each other, and brag on one another. That is just one worm bragging on another worm.

In the sight of God the one who tries the reins and searches the heart, knows what we are with our lusts, envies, jealousy, covetousness, bigotry, prejudice, ingratitude, and murmuring against His divine providence.

He said, “*Your whole head is sick.*” That is what is wrong with you, “*your whole head is sick. You whole heart is faint; (that is the mind and the affections), from the sole of your feet to the top of your head; there is no soundness in you. There is nothing but wounds, bruises, and putrefying sores that haven’t even been treated, neither mollified with ointment; they are all under sin.*”

Paul wrote in **Romans Chapter 3**; “*they are all under sin.*” He talked about the Jews in **Romans 1**, the **Gentiles in Romans 2**, and in **Romans 3**, he talked about all men, the whole shooting match.

He says, “*They are all under sin. There is none that understandeth. There is none that seek God. They are all gone out of the way. They are altogether become unprofitable. There is none that doeth good; and I will emphasize it again; “no not one.”*”

We hear people talk and say, “he is such a good man.” Compared to whom? “She is such a good woman.” Compared to whom? Well, compared to a harlot, I suppose she is. Compared to a drunk, I suppose he is.

Compared to God, “*there is none good, no not one.*” Listen to this description: “*Their throat is an open sepulcher.*” The Scripture says about Lazarus, “*Don’t roll away the stone; He has been dead four days; He is stinking.*” That is what our throats are before God, open graves. They are full of “*dead men’s bones*” and highly offensive and smelly.

“Our tongues are full of deceit. Under our lips is the poison of asps (rattlesnakes). Our mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Our feet are swift to shed blood. There is no fear of God.” Everyone thinks that they are going to heaven and there is no fear of God before their eyes, no fear of God.

Everybody is religious. Everybody is a Christian. God says, *“You are without God; you are without Christ; you are without hope in this world.”*

God is a spirit and man is flesh. God is life and man is *“dead in trespasses and sin.”* God is truth and man is a liar. God is good and man is evil. God is light and man is darkness. Man is a child of darkness and a son of darkness. He is a dweller of darkness and a lover of darkness.

“Who shall stand in His presence,” this holy, awesome, holy, terrible God? Who shall stand in this perfect, pure, God of truth, justice, mercy, grace, and love? *“Who shall stand in His presence?”* I will tell you; *“he that hath clean hands and a pure heart who has never lifted up his soul, (spirit, thoughts, mind and imagination), to vanity.”*

“O Lord God, if Thou shouldest mark iniquity, who shall stand?” That leads to the question, *“How then, can man be just with God?”* We have a question on our hands. We have a problem before us. *“How can he be clean?”*

God can't have you any other way. God can't have anything except that which is perfect. God can't commune with that which is not perfect. He couldn't even deal with His Son on the cross because He bore our sins.

He didn't even have any sins of His own. He was a sinner by imputation. He was bearing the sin of others and God turned His back on Him. *“My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?”* The reason is because He is Holy.

The only reason that god (idol) you are worshipping can have anything to do with you is because he is a god of your imagination. He is a figment of your imagination. You have whittled him out with your own pen-knife. You have a god of your own imagination but the living God is another matter.

Here is the answer; turn in your Bible to **Romans 3:19**. I will give you the answer to this question, *“how can man be just with God?”* This follows that description that I gave you awhile ago of man that says, *“There is none good; the poison of asps is under their lips. Their feet are swift to shed blood. There are none good, no not one.”*

Then, Paul said; *“Now we know that what things so ever God's law saith, it saith to them who are under the law, which is everyone of us, you, me, and everybody else, of which there is no exemption, that every mouth may be stopped.”*

You may say, “But preacher.” Stop your mouth! You might think that you have been good; stop your mouth! Your Daddy might have been a preacher; stop your mouth! *“Let every mouth be stopped.”*

You may have taught Sunday school, you might have said, “I’ve never tasted liquor; I’ve never smoked; stop your mouth! If God could show you your heart on the TV screen, you would never be seen in public again; you know it and I know it.

Your sins are well hidden and well covered. The law stops your mouth and says, *“All the world becomes guilty before God.”*

Look at **verse 20**; *“Therefore, by the deeds of the law, (by the works of religion, by the doings and activities of religion and your denominations, there shall no flesh, white or black, rich or poor, male or female, Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Baptist); there shall no flesh be justified in God’s sight.”*

“By the deeds of the law, (by the doings of religion, by the merits of the flesh), “there shall no flesh, no son of Adam, be justified in God’s sight.”

You go on and stand at the judgment and tell God how many tithes you paid, how many souls you won, how many Sunday school lessons you taught, how many sermons you preached, what a good boy or girl you were.

God says, “No flesh can be justified in His sight on the merits of the law, *‘for by the law is the knowledge of sin.’*” *“But now, the righteousness of God, (the cleanliness, the immaculate, holiness of God), without the law is manifested, it is witnessed (it is revealed), by the Word of God and by the prophets.”*

I am not talking about His essential holiness in His own character, I am talking about that holiness that He provided and purposed and gave to sinners, that righteousness of God which I need, which I want, which I desire, which God requires and the law demands. I’m talking about that righteousness of God without the law.

It is written right in the Word. What is it preacher? It is the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ, by the faithfulness of Christ and by the faith in Christ. It is by the obedience of Christ and by obedience to Christ.

The righteousness of Christ is by a relationship with Christ as a substitute who took our place and did for us what we couldn’t do. *“That righteousness is unto all and upon all that believe; there is no difference for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”*

It is for everyone who is a sinner. It is for everyone that needs it, wants it, desires it, and who will receive it as God gives it in the person of His Son.

Do you want it? You might say, “No, I am going to keep on working my way.” You are welcome to do that but your works are, “filthy rags.” “*All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.*” In the flesh you will never please God.

I have never prayed a prayer yet or preached a sermon or did a deed which was perfect in God’s sight or one which God would dignify even noticing it, much less rewarding it. Our righteousness is Christ.

God can satisfy but God can’t suffer. Man can suffer but man can’t satisfy. So, Jesus Christ came down here to earth as the God-man, as our representative. He both suffered as man and was satisfied as God.

Therefore, in **Romans 3 verse 24**, it says; “*Being justified freely, (it has to be free because we do not have anything to pay) by His grace, (not by our works) through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ whom God has set forth, (predestinated, fore-ordained, given to men) to be a propitiation, (a mercy seat, a reconciler, an atonement), through faith in His blood.*”

His blood is the blood of atonement. His blood is the cleansing blood. His blood is the redeeming blood. His blood is interceding blood. His blood is sanctified blood. His blood is reconciling blood and declares unto us the righteousness of God that “*He may be just and the justifier.*”

Now listen; God has not changed His essential holiness; He is still on the throne of holiness, justice, and righteousness. He has not moved a peg, not a peg.

Bless your heart, every one of us are just as much flesh as we ever were. We are sons of Adam, “*born in sin.*” God Almighty gave His Son and He came down here and did for me what I couldn’t do.

He lifted me from the dunghill. He raised me from the cesspool. He washed me in His blood. He put His spirit within me and a song in my heart. He put praise on my lips and gave me righteousness and covered my sins. He paid my debt and put away all of my transgressions.

Now, when God looks on me in Christ, robed in His righteousness, God, even God with His sovereign eyes, cannot see any fault in me. “*With His spotless garments on I am as holy as His Son.*”

Not only has He imputed to us a perfect holiness but He has imparted to us a desire of holiness, a desire to glorify His name, a desire to please Him, and a desire to be like Him.

That is why the people of God will not tell you that they aren’t perfect but they sure would like to be. They are not without sin but they would sure like to be. I want to be like Christ. I want to please Him and I want to love Him more.

I want to “*grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ.*” I want to be more like my Master. I want to “*show forth the praises of Him who called me out of darkness into His marvelous light.*”

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So, I say to you in closing, when you come to realize the holiness of God, when you have some understanding of the extent of our guilt, you will be overwhelmed with the question; “*how can I be just with God?*”

The answer comes back, only in Christ, in Christ alone!