

Subject: *How Can Man Be Justified with God?*

Scripture: *Job 25:1-6*

This is the shortest chapter in the Book of Job. This is Bildad's third speech. It is brief, and Job is thankful for that. John Wesley had a lady come to him and say, "I think I know what my talent is." Wesley said, "Tell me." She said, "I think it is to speak my mind." Wesley said, "I don't think the Lord would mind if you would bury that talent." It seems like Job's friends have run out of words to say, and silence is not a bad thing.

This chapter may be short in length, but it is not short on truth. The Book of Job teaches us many things about suffering, about Satan, and about searching for answers. But the greatest subject in Job is what it teaches us about God. He is the main character. We need to know Him as He truly is, not just the way we want Him to be. Think about it. It was God who first met with Satan and made the deal concerning Job. It was God who allowed Satan to attack Job. It was God who set the limits on what Satan could do. It was God who kept silent all the while Job was suffering. And as we will see later, it was God who broke the silence, spoke to Job, and resolved the whole situation. We have become so man-centered in our theology that we have all but left God out.

1. God's sovereign position (vs. 1-3)

This chapter focuses on God's power and justice. Bildad spoke of God's sovereignty. He spoke of His dominion and fear (awe). He has absolute power and nothing or no one can hinder Him.

- God's sovereignty is His unlimited freedom and absolute right to do what He wants

Sovereignty means that God has absolute and total control. He answers to no one. He is unrestricted. He is unlimited. He rules over all. Notice the mention of His high places (vs. 2), His armies (vs. 3), and His light (vs. 3). These are three aspects of His sovereignty.

- A. God's orderly control - He "makes peace" (establishes order) in His high places. What appears to be chaos on earth does not affect the order in Heaven. There is no panic in Heaven. The Trinity never meets in emergency session.
- B. God's unlimited power - "Is there any number to His armies?" The obvious answer is "No." ***Psalms 103:19-22*** ¹⁹ *The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.* ²⁰ *Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.* ²¹ *Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.* ²² *Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.* One of God's majestic titles is "the Lord of hosts" which means "Lord of armies."
- C. God's perfect knowledge - "Upon whom does His light not rise?" This refers to God's inescapable, all-seeing eyes and complete knowledge. In *24:15*, Job spoke of wicked men who waited until it was dark so no one would see them or recognize them. In *24:16*, Job spoke of the thief who broke into a house at night to steal. God sees all and knows all. ***Proverbs 15:3*** *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.* ***Psalms 139:11-12*** ¹¹ *If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.* ¹² *Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and*

the light are both alike to thee. The fact that God sees all and knows all will either bring great comfort or great conviction.

2. Man's sinful condition (vs. 4-6)

The Book of Job has more questions than any other book of the Bible. This last part of Bildad's speech contains four questions (two questions in verse 4 and two questions in verse 6). Verse 4 asks perhaps the greatest question in the Bible. These words show us how we all stand before a great and holy God. We can summarize Bildad's questions into three brief statements:

- A. All of us are *unrighteous* – All people have sinned. **Romans 3:10** *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* The problem is that God is perfectly righteous. How can we be justified with God or be righteous in His sight?
- B. All of us are *unclean* – All people are spiritually unclean. **Psalms 51:5-7**⁵ *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*⁶ *Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*⁷ *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Proverbs 20:9 Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?* Bildad illustrated the point by comparing us to the moon and the stars. In the Middle East where Job lived the moon and stars shine very brightly, but even they are not pure compared to God. **1 John 1:5** *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.* Let's be honest, we are all unclean in the presence of a holy and perfect God. Isaiah saw a vision of God (Isa. 6, The angels cried "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of hosts" and then he said, "Woe is me, for I am undone, for I am a man of unclean lips."
- C. All of us are *unworthy* – Bildad used two words for "worm" in verse 6. The first word could be translated "maggot." It has the idea of putrefying worms and decay. It was a terrible thing to say to Job because he was literally covered with maggots. **Job 7:5** *My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.* The second word for "worm" speaks of weakness. The point is clear. Next to God, man is like a lowly, disgusting worm. He is weak and worthless. Isaac Watts wrote that great old hymn, "Alas and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die; would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I." Some of the modern hymnbooks read, "for sinners such as I."

The strange thing about this chapter is that the words of Bildad are all true. The problem is not what Bildad said but what he failed to say. He asked the question "How then can man be justified or righteous with God?" but he failed to give the answer. Maybe he didn't know the answer. Do you know the answer?

- *How then can man be justified with God?*
- **Romans 3:20** *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*
- **Romans 3:28** *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*

- ***Galatians 2:21*** *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

The only way we can be righteous with God is to have a righteousness freely given to us by Christ. He died in our place, for our sins, so we might be justified or made righteous in God's sight.

- ***Romans 5:1*** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*
- ***2 Corinthians 5:21*** *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

We turn from our sin and trust Christ, and His righteousness is imputed or put to our account. What grace and what love!

In VBS we learned a simple ABCs of salvation: A is admit you're a sinner and repent; B is believe that Jesus is the Son of God; C is confess Him as your Savior and Lord. It's based on these verses:

- ***Romans 10:9-10*** ⁹ *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* ¹⁰ *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*