



MZBMP

Title: [The Dialogue *cont'd.*] The LORD Demands an Answer & Job is Humbly Silent

Text: 40:1-5

1 Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said,

2 Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him?
he that reproveth God, let him answer it.

3 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,

4 Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.
5 Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.

Introduction:

1. The LORD reproves Job (vv.1-2)
2. Job humbled himself (vv.3-5)

I. The LORD's Challenge to Job (vv.1-2)

- A. Notice this "speech" did not come from the whirlwind. Perhaps this is the LORD's "small voice" (cf. 1 Kings 19:11-12; Deut. 32:2; Isa. 55:10).
- B. The LORD's first question is given with disdain: "Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct Him?" – does God have to adjust to our advice against His Providence?
- C. Shall we (or anyone) "contend" (to dispute or to disagree with) the Almighty?
- D. Can any of His creatures "instruct" the LORD? Should He adjust to every single complainer?
- E. When we "contend" with men – we should instruct them on how to do better. BUT how do you do that with God? No way.
- F. It is not for us to instruct the LORD, nor to contend with Him, nor to reprove Him, nor to answer Him in defiance. It is for us to trust in Him. To be thankful to Him. To fear Him and to keep His commandments (Ecc. 12:13).

II. Job's Submission to the LORD (vv.3-5)

- A. Job expressed no repentance upon hearing his three friends and Elihu, but when the LORD spoke – He melted in godly sorrow (repentance). (cf. Jn. 16:8).
- B. God's reproof is unlike his friends' charges – God's convictions are faithful and true.
- C. If man yields to God, then, God can bless Him.
- D. Job sees himself as "vile" – He is aware and convinced of his sinfulness. (This is repentance).
- E. Repentance changes a person's opinion about themselves.
- F. Job's silence is not because of being sad or confused BUT because he refuses to justify himself – a completely opposite attitude as he replied to his three friends.
- G. Repentance does not repeat the offence(s) or sin. (There's been a change of heart about sin).
- H. Repentance is about the "will" (volition) – There has to be a change of mind (mental), a change of heart (emotional – there is remorse/sadness stemming from the awareness of sin) and a change of will (volitional). Job repented (turned or changed) (cf. Job 13:22; 31:37).
- I. Repentance is coupled with restitution – "hand upon my mouth" (the same advice he gave his friends, Job 21:5) and "I will proceed no further."

Conclusion:

1. Everyone who contends with God will be brought to silence. (Rom. 3:19)
2. Job was brought to repentance from "round one" – but God is not finished.
3. Repentance is only the beginning. Faith is the other arm that completes the embrace of grace.