

## Job 17

**Read Job 17:1-7:** Job believes he is about to die. He feels surrounded by those who would gladly see him pass on. He feels that his friends will not be providing any help; as they have no common sense or ability to help. Job has become a joke in his community. It is like the movie *Trading Places*; where a successful man becomes a *down and out* person. There is a place that a man can reach; which we call *the bottom*. It is a place of hopelessness. Other men of God have experienced this place. David had numerous low points:

Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance. O my God, my soul is cast down within me; Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, And from the heights of Hermon, From the Hill Mizar. Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me. The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me— A prayer to the God of my life. I will say to God my Rock, “Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?” As with a breaking of my bones, My enemies reproach me, While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God. (Psalm 42:5-11)

There are always good things and bad things to focus on. Focusing on God tends to block out our fears. God wants to get our in him; and move into the right kind of relationship. Many people only use God as their 911 number. Job had obsessed over what evil might come upon his family. God was having him face his worst fear head on. David had a love relationship with God. Once he looked at God; instead of his own predicament, things started to turn around. He was even able to counsel himself. Job respected and feared God; but it did not seem as relational and conversational. Job's reactions (so far) are only comments about his situation. He has not been able to just focus on God. In Job's case, he saw no reason to repent. He agreed that he was an imperfect sinner; but he had lived a relatively-right. He felt he had unjust punishment for having lived a good life. He was frustrated at having to live up to some invisible and unachievable standard. He

was a frustrated *Boy Scout*. Living a perfect life is destined for frustration at some point. At some point you have to rest in God.

they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. (Romans 10:3)

God wants us to be more than his servants. Job was a godly man; but he needed to re-cast his relationship with God. It had become something different than what God wanted it to be. Job was acting as the family intercessor and community cornerstone. He was confident in his actions as being good. No matter how much you become somebody's *daddy*, you are still a blind, naked and sinful beggar before the throne of God. God had to speak at length to get Job to get off of his self-confidence. It is hard to reach lifetime Christians. Their pride can get in the way of openness and outside healing. There is a difference between repentance in the form of crying; and saying that you are sorry so that the pain stops...verses seeing God's holiness and feeling unworthy. Then for the first time Job sincerely repented. He was immediately healed.

-You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. (John 15:14-15)

Later on he saw God and heard him speak. He eventually realized there is so much more than he was aware of.

"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:5-6)

**Read Job 17:8-12:** Job is now making his farewell speech. He wants it to be known that he is *sticking to his guns*. He has followed God's basic format for living. Her goes a step further; and generalizes that any man who follows God is well served and will strengthen. He tells all of his friends that they are liars.

**Read Job 17:13-16:** Job is resigned to his near death. He believes that he will become worm dirt soon. I would be bitter if I did not know about the afterlife in Christ in heaven.