

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Job - Chapters 6-8

Lesson 3

"You may be as orthodox as the devil, and as wicked" -John Wesley. Job responded with two passionate appeals. First, he appealed to his friends that they might show more understanding and sympathy. His friends did not misquote God as much as they misunderstood Him. Secondly, he appealed to God, that He would consider his plight and lighten his sufferings. May we seek to know God and others before we speak what we believe to be God's wisdom.

OBSERVATION: Read Job 6

1. Read Job 6 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Job, and Eliphaz*.
Key Words: *God, Job, your/your (Eliphaz)*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 25. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

READ JOB 6

1. Job 6 begins with the words, *Then Job answered and said*. Eliphaz has spoken to Job in response to his understanding of why Job is suffering and what Job needs to do. Job attempts to bring Eliphaz to a place where he sees Job's distress. Why did Job say his words (spoken in Job 3) were *rash*? Use verses 2-4 to answer.
 - a. Using synonyms, define the word *rash*.
 - b. What are some words you would use to describe feelings of anguish and distress?

2. What question did Job ask in verse 5?

a. Job was stating that a *donkey does not bray*, nor does *the ox low* unless it is hungry. In the same way, Job was justifying his complaints. In his misery, what did Job say he wanted?
Verses 9,10

1.) Referring back to his lament in chapter 2, Job desired the rest that he believed death would give him. If God would kill him, his pain would end in death (*though in anguish, I would exult*). He knew he was right with God as he claimed, *I have not concealed (or denied) the words of the Holy One*. What confidence do you have that you are right with God?

3. Job then moved into a series of questions. Using verses 11-13 list his questions.

a. *Do I have any power to help myself, now that success has been driven from me?* Job 6:13 NIV
Describe the hopelessness of feeling like God has forsaken you and not having the power to help yourself.

b. Although Job felt hopeless, why was he not without *hope*?

Psalm 31:24

Psalm 38:15

Challenge: List other verses that speak of the *hope* we have in God.

4. Read Job's expectations of his friends in Job 6:14 and share your thoughts.

5. In Job 6:15-21 Job criticized Eliphaz. Notice the last phrase of verse 21, *you see terror and are afraid*. Often we are not able to minister to someone, because their trial is overwhelming to us. Rather than shirk from comforting them, what should we do?

6. Job both defends himself and challenges Eliphaz in verses 22-28. Record two phrases of:

Job's defense

Job's challenge

7. Notice that Job's challenges to Eliphaz were all demands for proof of his accusations. Yet, his chief concern was something Job wanted him to *concede* (admit). What was it? Verse 29

OBSERVATION: Read Job 7

1. Read Job 7 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Job*.

Key Words: *God* and *Job*

Read Job 7

1. *But as for me, I would seek God...* (Job 5:8). So, Job does just that in this chapter. Using verses 1-5, record a few words that Job used to describe his life.

- a. Job lamented his *wearisome nights*. What is it like to lie awake most or all of the night?

1.) King David could also relate to sleepless nights. Record his words from Psalm 6:6.

2. In Job 7:6-10, Job mourns the futility of life. Some of his statements are true; some are not. Record one true statement and one false statement.

True:

False:

- a. Why do you think we tend to say things we don't mean when we hurt?

1.) How should you respond to someone who makes false statements when they hurt?

- b. The book of Job uses the word *hope* 16 times. What connection does despair have with a lack of *hope*?
3. Job directed his complaint to God in verses 11-16. Here is where we are so tempted to step in and rebuke someone for speaking as Job did. Notice Job's words in verse 11. What did he say he would do?
4. Job asked a question in the negative sense that has been posed in the positive sense three other times in the Bible. What did Job ask in verse 17?
- a. In what ways has *God set His heart on you*?
- Challenge: use Scripture to support your answer.
5. Another question Job twisted is in verse 18. Praise God that He doesn't *visit us every morning, and test us every moment*. What does Lamentation 3:22,23 say *are new every morning*?
- a. Add to this the praise of Psalm 68:19. What are some *benefits* you have been *loaded* with recently?
6. The chapter closes with Job's questioning of God. Job could not understand why he seemed to be God's target. Reflect upon a time when you felt like Job. What were some of your thoughts?
- a. What was Job's concern?
- b. What did Job call God in verse 20?
- 1.) Why is it a good thing to you that God is a *watcher of men*?

OBSERVATION: Read Job 8

1. Read Job 8 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God*, *Job*, and *Bildad*.

Key Words: *God*, *Job*, and *Bildad*

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs twice in verse 15. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted each time.

Read Job 8

1. *Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said...* The first words out of Bildad's mouth were those of judgment regarding Job's words. What did Bildad say about them in verse 2?

- a. What is a person saying when they describe another's words as a *strong wind*?

2. Read Job 8:1-7. Summarize what Bildad was saying to Job.

- a. What two questions did Bildad ask Job in verse 3?

- 1.) Record the truth of Revelation 16:7.

- a.) *God's judgments are true and righteous.* What did Bildad not understand as far as *God's judgments* toward Job? (See his accusation in verse 6.)

3. In Job 8:8-10 Bildad challenged Job to consider ancient wisdom. What are the pros and cons of considering the ways and wisdom of those who have gone before us?

- a. Share an example of wisdom you have gleaned from the experience of an older person?

4. After challenging Job to consider the wisdom of the ancients, he then (verses 11-18) bids Job to apply common sense wisdom. What do you think Bildad wanted Job to understand?

- a. Notice Bildad's emphasis on cause and effect. i.e. "You do this and this will happen", essentially telling Job that he did something to cause his affliction. Although sometimes true, why could this assumption be in error?

1.) Why might it be easy to assume that God is punishing someone to whom bad things were happening?

5. Job 8:19-22 recounts God's blessings upon the *blameless*. What are they?

- a. We know that no one is *blameless* in the sense of being without fault or sin. What would you say to someone who wanted these blessings in their life?

REVIEW: Job 6-8

1. Reflect upon Job's expressions of despair in Job 6. What did you learn from them?

2. Consider Job's frustration with Eliphaz. What do you think you would have said to Eliphaz?

3. Job asked God some hard questions at the end of chapter 8. Why is it good to seek and wait upon God's answers to our hard questions?

4. How would you complete the thought from Job 8:19, *Behold, this is the joy of His way?*

*Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones You have crushed rejoice.*

- Psalm 51:8 NIV

Observation Worksheet

Job 6

¹ Then Job answered and said: ² "Oh, that my grief were fully weighed, and my calamity laid with it on the scales! ³ For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea-- therefore my words have been rash. ⁴ For the arrows of the Almighty are within me; my spirit drinks in their poison; the terrors of God are arrayed against me. ⁵ Does the wild donkey bray when it has grass, or does the ox low over its fodder? ⁶ Can flavorless food be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg? ⁷ My soul refuses to touch them; they are as loathsome food to me. ⁸ "Oh, that I might have my request, that God would grant me the thing that I long for! ⁹ That it would please God to crush me, that He would loose His hand and cut me off! ¹⁰ Then I would still have comfort; though in anguish, I would exult, He will not spare; for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One. ¹¹ "What strength do I have, that I should hope? And what is my end, that I should prolong my life? ¹² Is my strength the strength of stones? Or is my flesh bronze? ¹³ Is my help not within me? And is success driven from me? ¹⁴ "To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty. ¹⁵ My brothers have dealt deceitfully like a brook, like the streams of the brooks that pass away, ¹⁶ which are dark because of the ice, and into which the snow vanishes. ¹⁷ When it is warm, they cease to flow; when it is hot, they vanish from their place. ¹⁸ The paths of their way turn aside, they go nowhere and perish. ¹⁹ The caravans of Tema look, the travelers of Sheba hope for them. ²⁰ They are disappointed because they were confident; they come there and are confused. ²¹ For now you are nothing, you see terror and are afraid. ²² Did I ever say, 'Bring something to me'? Or, 'Offer a bribe for me from your wealth'? ²³ Or, 'Deliver me from the enemy's hand'? Or, 'Redeem me from the hand of oppressors'? ²⁴ "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; cause me to understand wherein I have erred. ²⁵ How forceful are right words! But what does your arguing prove? ²⁶ Do you intend to rebuke my words, and the speeches of a desperate one, which are as wind? ²⁷ Yes, you overwhelm the fatherless, and you undermine your friend. ²⁸ Now therefore, be pleased to look at me; for I would never lie to your face. ²⁹ Yield now, let there be no injustice! Yes, concede, my righteousness still stands! ³⁰ Is there injustice on my tongue? Cannot my taste discern the unsavory?

Job 7

¹ "Is there not a time of hard service for man on earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hired man? ² Like a servant who earnestly desires the shade, and like a hired man who eagerly looks for his wages, ³ so I have been allotted months of futility, and wearisome nights have been appointed to me. ⁴ When I lie down, I say, 'When shall I arise, and the night be ended?' For I have had my fill of tossing till dawn. ⁵ My flesh is caked with worms and dust, my skin is cracked and breaks out afresh. ⁶ "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without

hope. ⁷ Oh, remember that my life is a breath! My eye will never again see good. ⁸ The eye of him who sees me will see me no more; while your eyes are upon me, I shall no longer be. ⁹ As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, so he who goes down to the grave does not come up. ¹⁰ He shall never return to his house, nor shall his place know him anymore. ¹¹ "Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. ¹² Am I a sea, or a sea serpent, that You set a guard over me? ¹³ When I say, 'My bed will comfort me, my couch will ease my complaint,' ¹⁴ then You scare me with dreams and terrify me with visions, ¹⁵ so that my soul chooses strangling and death rather than my body. ¹⁶ I loathe my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone, for my days are but a breath. ¹⁷ "What is man, that You should exalt him, that You should set Your heart on him, ¹⁸ that You should visit him every morning, and test him every moment? ¹⁹ How long? Will You not look away from me, and let me alone till I swallow my saliva? ²⁰ Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a burden to myself? ²¹ Why then do You not pardon my transgression, and take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust, and You will seek me diligently, but I will no longer be."

Job 8

¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said: ² "How long will you speak these things, and the words of your mouth be like a strong wind? ³ Does God subvert judgment? Or does the Almighty pervert justice? ⁴ If your sons have sinned against Him, He has cast them away for their transgression. ⁵ If you would earnestly seek God and make your supplication to the Almighty, ⁶ if you were pure and upright, surely now He would awake for you, and prosper your rightful dwelling place. ⁷ Though your beginning was small, yet your latter end would increase abundantly. ⁸ "For inquire, please, of the former age, and consider the things discovered by their fathers; ⁹ for we were born yesterday, and know nothing, because our days on earth are a shadow. ¹⁰ Will they not teach you and tell you, and utter words from their heart? ¹¹ "Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water? ¹² While it is yet green and not cut down, it withers before any other plant. ¹³ So are the paths of all who forget God; and the hope of the hypocrite shall perish, ¹⁴ whose confidence shall be cut off, and whose trust is a spider's web. ¹⁵ He leans on his house, but it does not stand. He holds it fast, but it does not endure. ¹⁶ He grows green in the sun, and his branches spread out in his garden. ¹⁷ His roots wrap around the rock heap, and look for a place in the stones. ¹⁸ If he is destroyed from his place, then it will deny him, saying, 'I have not seen you.' ¹⁹ "Behold, this is the joy of His way, and out of the earth others will grow. ²⁰ Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, nor will He uphold the evildoers. ²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, and your lips with rejoicing. ²² Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the dwelling place of the wicked will come to nothing."