



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Job*

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 17:1-16

1 "My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the graveyard is ready for me. **2** Surely there are mockers about me, and my eye dwells on their provocation. **3** "Lay down a pledge for me with you; who is there who will put up security for me? **4** Since you have closed their hearts to understanding, therefore you will not let them triumph. **5** He who informs against his friends to get a share of their property— the eyes of his children will fail. **6** "He has made me a byword of the peoples, and I am one before whom men spit. **7** My eye has grown dim from vexation, and all my members are like a shadow. **8** The upright are appalled at this, and the innocent stirs himself up against the godless **9** Yet the righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger. **10** But you, come on again, all of you, and I shall not find a wise man among you. **11** My days are past; my plans are broken off, the desires of my heart. **12** They make night into day: 'The light,' they say, 'is near to the darkness.' **13** If I hope for Sheol as my house, if I make my bed in darkness, **14** if I say to the pit, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'My mother,' or 'My sister,' **15** where then is my hope? Who will see my hope? **16** Will it go down to the bars of Sheol? Shall we descend together into the dust?"

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 17:1-16

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Chapter 17 opens with a lament; an almost resignation, to this battle Job's been facing. "My spirit is broken" (verse 1). Such anguish, exhaustion, and sadness is being conveyed in four words. Job was feeling at his wit's end. (Did you know the term 'wit's end' is actually in scripture (Psalm 107:27)?!) He felt defeated, misunderstood, alone, and longing for some kind of reprieve. He certainly wasn't getting that from his so-called friends claiming to be wise in their counsel to him. Job now refers to them as mockers-causing others to see Job as shameful and with a bad reputation. His name and character are being dragged through the mud, all in the name of "helping" him, trying to get him to admit some fault of his own when he knew there was none. But Job knew to hold fast, to remain righteous, that his suffering would produce strength (Matthew 5:10-12).



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Job

Many times we have seen this portrayed in movies or shows - perhaps even you've done this a time or two - pleaded to make a deal with God. "Please let 'xyz' happen." "Keep this consequence from me" or "I promise I'll never 'xyz' again, if...." Job is desperately calling out to God, pleading with him, not to get him out of a bad situation, not for empty or selfish gains, but for a deep longing to be found righteous. He wants God's approval and favor to vouch for him in his suffering. In verse 15, Job asks a rhetorical question of where is his hope now? He knows, as he always has, that it is in God alone.

We have not been promised a life free of suffering, but the exact opposite. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). In our hard and trying times, there is nothing wrong with seeking counsel and wisdom from trusted friends, but let us not get caught up in words from others, motivational quips, or "3 Steps To" to guide us. But rather, let us turn to the only One who fully knows and understands our struggles and our heart's longings. "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Questions:

1. When you are at your wit's end and your spirit feels broken, where do you turn first? Yourself, others, isolation, avoidance or praise, prayer, scripture, worship?
2. Have you ever been falsely accused of something going against your character? How did you handle it? Read James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 3:9.
3. Do you have trusted people you can go to for Biblical counsel? Do you want to be that for someone else? If you haven't already, join a Journey Group! Email pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com for more information.