



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Job

BIBLE TEXT | JOB 19:1-29

1 Then Job answered and said: **2** "How long will you torment me and break me in pieces with words? **3** These ten times you have cast reproach upon me; are you not ashamed to wrong me? **4** And even if it be true that I have erred, my error remains with myself. **5** If indeed you magnify yourselves against me and make my disgrace an argument against me, **6** know then that God has put me in the wrong and closed his net about me. **7** Behold, I cry out, 'Violence!' but I am not answered; I call for help, but there is no justice. **8** He has walled up my way, so that I cannot pass, and he has set darkness upon my paths. **9** He has stripped from me my glory and taken the crown from my head. **10** He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone, and my hope has he pulled up like a tree. **11** He has kindled his wrath against me and counts me as his adversary. **12** His troops come on together; they have cast up their siege ramp against me and encamp around my tent. **13** "He has put my brothers far from me, and those who knew me are wholly estranged from me. **14** My relatives have failed me, my close friends have forgotten me. **15** The guests in my house and my maidservants count me as a stranger; I have become a foreigner in their eyes. **16** I call to my servant, but he gives me no answer; I must plead with him with my mouth for mercy. **17** My breath is strange to my wife, and I am a stench to the children of my own mother. **18** Even young children despise me; when I rise they talk against me. **19** All my intimate friends abhor me, and those whom I loved have turned against me. **20** My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. **21** Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! **22** Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh? **23** "Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! **24** Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! **25** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. **26** And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, **27** whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! **28** If you say, 'How we will pursue him!' and, 'The root of the matter is found in him,' **29** be afraid of the sword, for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, that you may know there is a judgment."



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Job*

DEVOTIONAL FOR JOB 19:1-29

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We all have experienced friendships. Some friendships are long lasting, while others might be short lived. We might even empathize with Job to some degree as we gained a few miserable companions along the way. Other friendships spur us to walk closer to Christ (Proverbs 27:5-6; 17). Each friendship we encounter can help us understand true friendship.

Chapter 19 is Job's reply to Bildad, but I encourage you to take a look at how Job's response can be viewed through different lenses. Job responds by questioning how long his friends will torment him and show their disapproval, cutting him to the core with their words. Bildad has just falsely accused Job of wickedness, and ultimately not knowing God. However, we know God viewed Job as blameless and upright, a man who fears God and turns from evil (1:1). Job's spirit is broken and he knew the only One who could bring any comfort was the Lord.

Through the first lens, Job addresses his emotions. He describes some of his feelings and even specifically addresses the erroneous response Bildad spoke in chapter 18. Job mentions feelings such as being trapped in a net, helpless and without justice, walled up with no way to pass, dethroned, an uprooted tree, besieged and surrounded.

Through the second lens, he describes the people who were of no comfort. Job was certain that what his friends were accusing him of was false. He had been forgotten by friends, he no longer had a servant, his wife didn't want to be around him, and his so-called intimate friends were lousy companions. I can't imagine how lonely Job must have felt.

Finally, through the third lens, Job speaks what is true about God. Job had great confidence in saying, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth" (verse 25). Job knew that God was his living Redeemer, and that He would have the final word. What's beautiful is the prophecy in this one statement; Jesus our Redeemer lives! He is a perfect friend and companion to Job. "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). We also have a perfect friend in Jesus. John 15:14-15 states, "You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."



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Questions:

1. Read the following quote: "He [Job] now saw his sufferings in the light of eternity—the long view of life—not just in his lifetime" (Dr. Thomas Constable). What truth gave Job this eternal perspective?
2. Have you had friendships that have given counsel based on their personal opinion? Read 2 Timothy 2:15. How should counsel be given?
3. Do you desire friendships that will deepen your walk with Christ? Consider joining a Journey Group or re:generation on Monday's at 7pm at the Wills Point Campus.