

Friday, October 26, 2018

**Redeemer**

Job 19-20

*I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*  
Job 19:25-27

I love these verses. This is the cry from the depth of a heart that knows God. He knows that God is the Judge, but he also is certain that the same God who is the Judge is also the Redeemer—his Redeemer. He has absolute certainty that when his skin has been destroyed, in his flesh he will see God—he himself will see God. The Hebrew in this passage is complex and there is uncertainty if Job was speaking of his life on earth or life after death. Either way gives a glimpse into the depth of trust that Job had in God. Job trusted God beyond the hurt and pain and trusted Him to be the Redeemer he needed.

For me today, I am able to see the deeper truth in the cry of the sufferer. As salvation history has unfolded, it has become clear that there is a Redeemer and it is God's own Son—the promised Messiah—the Christ. He has redeemed me and purchased my pardon and I have been promised that I will see Him in my flesh because I have trusted in Him alone. Like Job, I yearn to see Him in the flesh as well, but for me it is from the certainty of the hope that is found in Christ.

*My dear Father, I know that my Redeemer lives and that He is seated at your right hand. I know that He has purchased me from the sin penalty that I have so rightly deserved and as such has set me free from the penalty of my sin. I praise You that one day I will see Him face to face and I will be able to thank Him for His sacrifice for me. Amen.*

Saturday, October 27, 2018

**Fairness**

Job 21-22

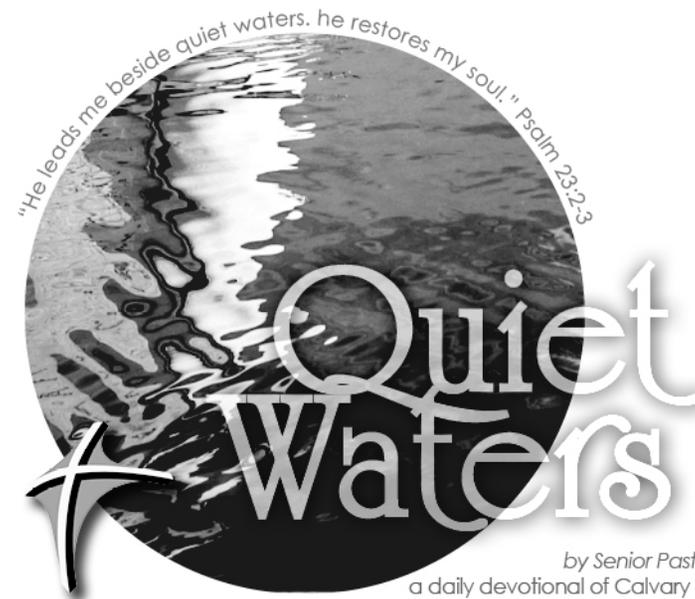
*Can anyone teach knowledge to God, since he judges even the highest?*  
Job 21:22

Chapter 21 reminds me of Psalm 73 in some ways. Job seems to be lamenting the apparent unfairness of wicked people finding blessing while righteous people suffer. From everything that he can see, the wicked and the righteous are in many ways treated the same. The wicked do not get what they deserve. Even in death, their graves are the same as the graves of the righteous. From an earthly perspective, there is no difference. In fact, many times it appears that the evil make out better. Job concludes that the reasoning of his friends is faulty. It is false and it is nonsense. They cannot speak for God and God cannot be defined merely as a God of retribution. The rhetorical question he brings reveals that no one can teach knowledge to God.

How often am I tempted to look at what is happening and see it as unfair? If I am truthful with myself, many times I do not believe that I am being treated fairly. It may be very subtle, but it is part of my old man, my flesh. No matter what things appear to be, I must trust that God is a righteous judge and that He will judge justly.

*O LORD, I praise You because You are a righteous Judge. Please Lord, help me rest in that truth. May it permeate my thought process so that I can follow the example of Christ, who "entrusted himself to him who judges justly" (1 Peter 2:23). Amen.*

October 22 - 27, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka  
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, October 22, 2018

**Speak**

Job 11-12

*Oh, how I wish that God would speak, that he would open his lips against you and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom, for true wisdom has two sides. Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin.*  
Job 11:5-6

The third friend of Job begins to speak and he seems to be the harshest of them all. He opens his statements with judgment against Job and his speeches. In effect, he is calling Job a fool. He is declaring that the words of Job are the words of a witless person (verse 12). He is wishing that God would grant Job's request for an audience. This will begin to influence Job's thinking and his conversation moving forward. Again we see that rather than listening to the heart of Job, Zophar judges his words. He misses the cry of a heart in pain. After this third interruption, Job will begin to express himself differently. The translation above does a disservice to the original text. It is not that God forgets our sins. The better translation is found in the ESV: "Know then that your God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves." This truth is reinforced in Ezra 9:13. Zophar is telling Job that not only is he not righteous, he should be glad that God isn't punishing him as much as he deserves. In essence, he is telling Job he is getting off easy and that if he did get to present his case before God that fact would become clear.

This chapter reminds me to be very careful to not have a judgmental heart against a brother in pain. I must be careful to hear his heart as he cries out to God.

*Dear God, How I praise You because You are not a God who treats me as my sins deserve. Your mercy is so great as to exact of me less than my guilt deserves. I am grateful. Amen.*

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

**Deliverance**

Job 13-14

*Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face. Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance, for no godless man would dare come before him!*  
Job 13:15-16

After chastising his friends and declaring that their statements about him were untrue, Job turns again to his conversation with God. I try to imagine what it would be like to be Job. He is a man given over to the worship of God—a righteous man who experienced extreme pain and loss. The degree of his loss was more than I can even consider. Yet, in the midst of all this, he does not move away from his worship of God. He wrestles with his understanding of God and who He is, but he does not move away from God. He leans in to God through this language of lament. In the midst of the language of lament comes the reminder that God can be trusted. He is certain that God will deliver him because he does not see himself as godless and he is confident that God does not either! Once again, as I am amazed by the integrity of this man of God, I see that He refuses to distrust what he knows to be true about God. God will be the One who delivers him. He knows that and he trusts it—even in the midst of trials and friends that just don't get it.

My hope must be in the LORD and in who He is as He has revealed Himself. He is my deliverer and He will deliver me through whatever situation I may find myself in.

*Dear God, where do I begin to offer praise to You for being my deliverer? How can I keep from praising Your name and declaring Your goodness? My hope is in You and in You alone. I trust in You and in You alone. Amen.*

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

**Lament**

Job 15-16

*O earth, do not cover my blood; may my cry never be laid to rest! Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend.*  
Job 16:18-21

There is a bit of a fatalism to the comments given in these verses. It is reminiscent of the account of Cain and Abel when God told Cain that the earth was crying out for Abel (Genesis 4:10). It is in this way that Job is asking that even the earth may bear witness to his innocence. In some way in the lament Job is reaching a point of despair. This is not hard to imagine in the midst of such compound grief and in the pain of the afflictions that have come upon his body. He is at the point of tears. The tears are flowing and he is calling for a witness to stand before God for him even if he dies. He is looking for an intercessor who has freedom to talk with God in conversation similar to that of one friend with another. He is calling for earth to be his witness and for an intercessor to interpret his thoughts in heaven. This is a moment of intense emotion pouring out of a heart of despair that longs for the touch of God.

I read the despair from this man and it aches in my heart just as it does for all those who do not know the One who is interceding before the throne for all those who trust in Him.

*Dear God, give me a passion for those who do not know that there is One who intercedes on behalf of those who have trusted in You. Help me pour out my laments to You knowing that You hear them and that the Holy Spirit is interpreting those groaning's of my heart to You. Amen.*

Thursday, October 25, 2018

**Interruption**

Job 17-18

*Surely such is the dwelling of an evil man; such is the place of one who knows not God.*  
Job 18:21

What does it mean to know God? There are differing opinions revealed in the book of Job. Bildad is quite certain that Job does not know God. The interruptions of the friends into the lament of Job have ramped up in their intensity. For me, this one in particular is troublesome. How is it that one determines if another knows or does not know God? I cannot get away from the lament of this book. I cannot get away from the language that is used by Job—a man who was blameless and upright, who feared God and shunned evil (1:1). The LORD told the accuser of Job's character twice. I do not think I am reading too much into the text to say that I see relationship in this account. God says there is none on the earth like Job and that Job is His servant. This is relationship. There is no sweeter relationship than the relationship between God and His servants. It is the relationship of family. That truth will become clear in the first advent of the precious Messiah. Bildad accused Job of not knowing God when, in reality, Job knew God intimately in relationship. That relationship allowed for Job to lament his circumstance.

I long to know the LORD the way that Job did and not just know about Him. I love knowing about Him as well, as I study His word, but the joy comes from the relationship.

*Dear Lord, help me bask in our relationship. May I be a willing servant, content with serving my Father and my God and may that relationship impact all my other relationships. Amen.*