

“Knowing God is Knowing Ourselves!”

Job 42:1-6

Intro. – A few years ago in Hillsboro, Ohio, somebody had been calling the Sheriff’s office. No name would be given, but that was no surprise considering these were prank calls. But then the caller started making threats. He would insist he was too smart to get caught hanging up just at the right moment before a tracer could be put on the line. Then this “hotshot” called repeating his threats, as well as, his boasting about being too smart to get caught. That’s when the night dispatcher said, “You don’t sound all that smart to me. I bet you don’t even know your Social Security number!” Did he?! His name was Scott A. Woofer, age 20, address 4035 Main St. He was still on the line when deputies knocked at his door.

Like it or not all of us are too much like Scott A. Woofer. We think more highly of ourselves at times than we should. Job is no exception. Before Job “saw” God, he made the following statement: *“I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go. My heart does not reproach any of my days”* (27:6). Later God speaks to Job out of a whirlwind, drawing vivid pictures of His majesty, wisdom and power. Job was so moved and humbled by the wonder of this he forgot his suffering and despair. He simply said, *“Therefore, I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.”* (42:6)

Purpose: to show only when one knows God will they come to know themselves

Unlike what we saw in the late 60’s – adults leaving families and jobs “to find themselves...” we intend through this message to show one “finds themselves” by knowing God. A clear view of God’s majesty helps us all view ourselves properly. It was Isaiah who upon seeing the Lord “high and lifted up” say, *“Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips.”* (Isaiah 6:5) It was Peter, upon seeing a miraculous catch of fish caused by Christ’s power, fell down before Jesus and said, *“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”* Job does the same thing and it is he whom we’ll use to accomplish this purpose:

I Job Acknowledged God’s POWER

- note Job’s confession – *“I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”*
- A. God Can Do All Things
 1. He Who spoke the universe into existence, He who sustains and upholds all things, can do anything He so wills. God can do anything, anything, anything, God can do anything but fail!”
 2. In short, Job was confessing his convictions – whatever God chose to think and desire God could at once accomplish it. Nothing was/is impossible for God!
 3. Is this your convictions? Do you believe God can do anything but fail? How are you testifying to others that this is your faith?
- B. God’s Purposes Will Not be Thwarted
 1. He whose power and wisdom no man can fully comprehend, is the One whose purposes will never be hindered or stopped.
 2. Job acknowledged his own inadequacies in understanding God’s purposes – but here he confesses the fulfillment of God’s purposes in no way depends on man’s complete understanding...
- C. Our Application
 1. Acknowledge the power of God:
 - a. Illus. – J.B. Phillips *Your God is Too Small* – book deals with our limited concepts of God...
 - b. do we not miniaturize our God by neglecting His promises?...
 2. Acknowledge God’s purposes will be accomplished:
 - a. though man tries to limit, ignore, ridicule, openly oppose God’s purposes, they will still be accomplished – God will never be defeated!
 - b. nothing with our God is an accident – every thought, every command harmonizes, compliments and makes up His purposes. Because He created us... we then have purpose as individuals... as families... as a local church...

- c. our God is before us, behind us, beside us – why depend upon, why serve anyone else?
- d. just as oceans bear largest of ships as easily as it does a row boat, our God supplies our greatest needs as easily as He supplies our smaller needs.

Acknowledge the power of God – Job did and he came to know himself better as a result!

II Job Acknowledged His OWN FOLLY

- “*Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge...?*”

A. Job Thought He Was Right

1. All that Job uttered concerning the Lord prior to the whirlwind, he thought was accurate – i.e. his questions were SINCERE, but lacking in knowledge/understanding.
2. Lord Himself said to Job’s 3 “friends” – (42:7) “*...you have not spoken of Me what is right as my Servant Job has.*”
3. Under a sense of knowing God better, Job realized he had spoken out of turn/without understanding.

B. God Instructs Job Further

1. Read Job 38:1-2 – Job 42:3 quotes God = God’s words becoming words of Job = progress...
2. From the whirlwind, God asks Job (38:4) “*Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding...*” (chaps 38-39)
3. God summarizes by asking (40:1-2)

C. Job Gives a Response

1. 40:3-4 (read)
2. Illus. – “...I lay my hand to my mouth!” – Time in Joliet, IL my two older brothers and I held a séance with the church youth group... Made a paper mache hand painted with paint that glowed in the dark... Jim and I were up in the attic of the garage while Dan conducted the séance. At the planned moment Jim let the hand on a poll down while I played organ music on a tap recorder... We got more reaction than we had bargained. One of the girls fainted. After she was carried into the parsonage and Dad/Mom found out what we were doing, learned this girl recent lost granddad... Anyway, I lay my hand to my mouth wishing we had not done that...
3. Job acknowledges he uttered things concerning himself that weren’t accurate because he uttered matters about God he didn’t know.

D. Our Application

1. Acknowledge our folly:
 - a. man is not the ultimate authority...
 - b. man cannot be self-sufficient = dependent on God
 - c. man is not worthy of heaven...
2. Acknowledge our need to know God better (study etc....)

Acknowledge our folly, brethren, and we’ll know ourselves better!

III Job Acknowledged His Need for FORGIVENESS

- 42:4 “*...I will ask You, and You instruct me.*”

A. Job Wisely Seeks God

1. Upon realizing he had spoken ignorantly – Job doesn’t seek to hide from God, unlike Adam...
2. Instead, Job seeks God, knowing Him better and as a result he knows himself better.

B. Our Application

1. Wrong to allow our folly (sin) to drive us away from God...
2. Right when humiliation and repentance drive us toward God...
3. The more foolish/sinful we are, the less we know ourselves because we know so little of God... the more one becomes acquainted with God the more urgent that one will understand their need for forgiveness...

Conclusion: I believe the Lord led Job to find faults with himself by leading him to the truth. Job, however, is a solid example of how the truth can hurt

Donald Wrights of Streamwood, Illinois learned that truth can be most painful. They were recently devastated by the murder of their daughter – Donette, age 16. She disappeared and was missing for three days. It was then her battered, half-clothed body was found under a log on an abandoned mink farm not far from her home. Police searched for eight months and found no clues. It was then the Wrights hired a P.I. to seek the killer of their girl. The detective began to tediously backtrack on the cold trail. After a few weeks, the P.I. didn't like the direction the investigation was taking him. He told this to the Wrights. They instructed him to carry on with the investigation. He did and after much testimony and a lie detector test the P.I. confirmed the Wright's daughter, Donette was murdered by their son, Mitchell Wright.

The truth can be a difficult pill to swallow; nevertheless, Job proved it is the only direction to go. Here then is our summary: Knowing God results in knowing Truth and Truth can be painful and difficult, but truth is always wrapped in God's grace! Truth is what makes us FREE!

Knowing God is Knowing Ourselves!