

Job Reading Sermon 1 from *The Message**

Eliphaz and Job.

Eliphaz

Then Eliphaz from Teman spoke up:

“ Would you mind if I said something to you? Under the circumstances it’s hard to keep quiet. You yourself have done this plenty of times, spoken words that clarify, encouraged those who were about to quit. Your words have put stumbling people on their feet, put fresh hope in people about to collapse.

But now you’re the one in trouble—you’re hurting! You’ve been hit hard and you’re reeling from the blow. But shouldn’t your devout life give you confidence now? Shouldn’t your exemplary life give you hope?

Think! Has a truly innocent person ever ended up on the scrap heap? Do genuinely upright people ever lose out in the end? [Job 4:1-7]

If I were in your shoes, I’d go straight to God, I’d throw myself on the mercy of God.

So, what a blessing when God steps in and corrects you!

Mind you, don’t despise the discipline of Almighty God! True, he wounds, but he also dresses the wound; the same hand that hurts you, heals you. From one disaster after another he delivers you; no matter what the calamity, the evil can’t touch you. [Job 5:8,17-19] ”

Job

Job answered:

“ If my misery could be weighed, if you could pile the whole bitter load on the scales, it would be heavier than all the sand of the sea! Is it any wonder that I’m screaming like a caged cat? The arrows of God Almighty are in me, poison arrows—and I’m poisoned all through! God has dumped the whole works on me. Donkeys bray and cows moo when they run out of pasture—so don’t expect me to keep quiet in this.

Do you see what God has dished out for me? It’s enough to turn anyone’s stomach! Everything in me is repulsed by it—it makes me sick.

All I want is an answer to one prayer, a last request to be honored: Let God step on me—squash me like a bug and be done with me for good. I’d at least have the satisfaction of not having blasphemed the Holy God, before being pressed past the limits.

Where’s the strength to keep my hopes up? What future do I have to keep me going? Do you think I have nerves of steel? Do you think I’m made of iron? Do you think I can pull myself up by my bootstraps? Why, I don’t even have any boots! [Job 6:1-13] ”

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language (Navpress Publishing Group, 2002)