JOB



WHERE WE ARE

- Job reflected on his former life, remembering God's blessings, the respect of others, and his opportunities to help those in need.
- He contrasted those memories with his present suffering, humiliation, and feelings of abandonment.
- Job examined his own conduct, defending his integrity in his relationships, responsibilities, and devotion to God.
- He continued to maintain that his suffering was not the result of some hidden wickedness.
- Job concluded his final defense by calling for an opportunity to present his case before God.
- His three friends had no more answers, but another voice was preparing to speak.

ELIHU BREAKS HIS SILENCE

32:1-5



“Job’s three friends refused to reply further to him because he kept insisting on his innocence.
2 Then Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite, of the clan of Ram, became angry. He was angry because Job refused to admit that he had sinned and that God was right in punishing him. 3 He was also angry with Job’s three friends, for they made God[a] appear to be wrong by their inability to answer Job’s arguments. 4 Elihu had waited for the others to speak to Job because they were older than he. 5 But when he saw that they had no further reply, he spoke out angrily.”

ELIHU BREAKS HIS SILENCE



- Job’s three friends stopped arguing because they could not convince him that he was guilty

- Elihu was angry with Job for defending himself and with the friends for condemning Job without adequately answering him

- Elihu recognized the failures of the conversation, but that didn’t necessarily mean he understood Job’s suffering

RECOGNIZING SOMEONE ELSE’S MISTAKES DOESN’T AUTOMATICALLY MEAN WE HAVE THE RIGHT ANSWERS



DOES AGE ALWAYS EQUAL WISDOM?

32:6-14



“Elihu son of Barakel the Buzite said,
“I am young and you are old,
so I held back from telling you what I think.
7 I thought, ‘Those who are older should speak,
for wisdom comes with age.’
8 But there is a spirit[b] within people,
the breath of the Almighty within them,
that makes them intelligent.
9 Sometimes the elders are not wise.
Sometimes the aged do not understand justice.
10 So listen to me,
and let me tell you what I think.
11 “I have waited all this time,
listening very carefully to your arguments,
listening to you grope for words.
12 I have listened,
but not one of you has refuted Job
or answered his arguments.
13 And don’t tell me, ‘He is too wise for us.
Only God can convince him.’
14 If Job had been arguing with me,
I would not answer with your kind of logic!”

DOES AGE ALWAYS EQUAL WISDOM?

- Elihu initially remained silent out of respect for the older men and their experience

  - He recognized that wisdom doesn't automatically come with age but ultimately comes from God

    - True wisdom requires humility, discernment, and a willingness to acknowledge what we don't know

WISDOM ISN'T MEASURED SIMPLY BY HOW LONG WE'VE LIVED, BUT BY HOW FAITHFULLY WE SEEK GOD'S UNDERSTANDING



THE DANGER OF BEING TOO EAGER TO SPEAK



32:15-22

“You sit there baffled,
with nothing more to say.
16 Should I continue to wait,
now that you are silent?
Must I also remain silent?
17 No, I will say my piece.
I will speak my mind.
18 For I am full of pent-up
words,
and the spirit within me
urges me on.
19 I am like a cask of wine
without a vent,
like a new wineskin ready to
burst!
20 I must speak to find relief,
so let me give my answers.
21 I won’t play favorites
or try to flatter anyone.
22 For if I tried flattery,
my Creator would soon
destroy me.”

THE DANGER OF BEING TOO EAGER TO SPEAK

- Elihu felt compelled to speak after listening to the failures of Job's friends

    - His frustraition reminds us that even sincere intentions can be influenced by anger and impatience

- Speaking truthfully requires more than confidence; it also requires humility and careful listening

JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE READY TO SAY IT WISELY

ELIHU ADDRESSES JOB

33:1-13



“Listen to my words, Job;
pay attention to what I have to say.
2 Now that I have begun to speak,
let me continue.
3 I speak with all sincerity;
I speak the truth.
4 For the Spirit of God has made me,
and the breath of the Almighty gives me
life.
5 Answer me, if you can;
make your case and take your stand.
6 Look, you and I both belong to God.
I, too, was formed from clay.
7 So you don’t need to be afraid of me.
I won’t come down hard on you.
8 “You have spoken in my hearing,
and I have heard your very words.
9 You said, ‘I am pure; I am without sin;
I am innocent; I have no guilt.
10 God is picking a quarrel with me,
and he considers me his enemy.
11 He puts my feet in the stocks
and watches my every move.’
12 “But you are wrong, and I will show you
why.
For God is greater than any human being.
13 So why are you bringing a charge against
him?
Why say he does not respond to people’s
complaints?”

ELIHU ADDRESSES JOB

- Elihu approached Job as a fellow human being, emphasizing that both were created by God

  - He challenged Job’s claims of innocence and his complaints about God’s apparent opposition

    - Although Elihu correctly affirmed God’s greatness, he risked misunderstanding Job’s grief and questions

WE CAN SAY SOMETHING TRUE ABOUT GOD WHILE STILL MISUNDERSTANDING WHAT SOMEONE ELSE IS EXPERIENCING



GOD SPEAKS IN WAYS WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE



33:14-22

“For God speaks again and again,
    though people do not recognize it.
15 He speaks in dreams, in visions of the night,
    when deep sleep falls on people
    as they lie in their beds.
16 He whispers in their ears
    and terrifies them with warnings.
17 He makes them turn from doing wrong;
    he keeps them from pride.
18 He protects them from the grave,
    from crossing over the river of death.
19 “Or God disciplines people with pain on their sickbeds,
    with ceaseless aching in their bones.
20 They lose their appetite
    for even the most delicious food.
21 Their flesh wastes away,
    and their bones stick out.
22 They are at death’s door;
    the angels of death wait for them.”

GOD SPEAKS IN WAYS WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE

- Elihu suggested that God communicates in ways people may not immediately recognize

    - He introduced the possibility that suffering can sometimes serve as a warning or correction rather than punishment

        - While God can use suffering for spiritual growth, we cannot assume we know why someone is suffering

GOD CAN WORK THROUGH OUR SUFFERING, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE ALWAYS UNDERSTAND HIS PURPOSE

THE HOPE OF RESCUE AND RESTORATION

33:23-32



“But if an angel from heaven appears—
a special messenger to intercede for a person
and declare that he is upright—
24 he will be gracious and say,
‘Rescue him from the grave,
for I have found a ransom for his life.’
25 Then his body will become as healthy as a child’s,
firm and youthful again.
26 When he prays to God,
he will be accepted.
And God will receive him with joy
and restore him to good standing.
27 He will declare to his friends,
‘I sinned and twisted the truth,
but it was not worth it.[a]
28 God rescued me from the grave,
and now my life is filled with light.’...

29 “Yes, God does these things
again and again for people.
30 He rescues them from the grave
so they may enjoy the light of life.
31 Mark this well, Job. Listen to me,
for I have more to say.
32 But if you have anything to say, go ahead.
Speak, for I am anxious to see you justified.
33 But if not, then listen to me.
Keep silent and I will teach you wisdom!”

THE HOPE OF RESCUE AND RESTORATION

- Elihu described God's ability to show mercy, rescue people from destruction, and retore their lives

  - His words offer genuine hope, but his explanation of restoration doesn't neccessarily fit Job's circumstances

    - God's ultimate work of redemtion through Jesus reminds us that suffering and death do not have the final word

GOD' S POWER TO RESTORE IS CERTAIN, EVEN WHEN WE DON' T UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR OUR SUFFERING



THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Confidence Isn't Always Correctness** – Speaking with certainty doesn't guarantee that we fully understand a situation

2. **Suffering Doesn't Always Have an Obvious Explanation** – God can work through difficult circumstances without those circumstances necessarily being punishment or correction

3. Wisdom Requires Humility – Sometimes the most faithful response is to listen, offer compassion, and acknowldge what we don't know

Bottom Line: True wisdom isn't simply knowing what to say about God. It's knowing when to listen, when to speak, and when to trust Him with what we cannot understand



THOUGHTS???

Elihu was angry with both Job and his three friends. Do you think his frustration was justified? Can anger sometimes motivate us to address something important, and when might it interfere with our judgment?

