

I MADE A COVENANT WITH MY EYES JOB 31:1

By Don Krider

Job is one of my favorite books in the Bible. He's got these three miserable counselors who had some right words but the wrong spirit. They weren't there to comfort Job; they were there to criticize Job. So every one of us has a choice, don't we. We can have the word of righteousness; we can have the word in our heart, but it's what we do with it, how we use it, that either makes it effective to produce in somebody's life or brings them into bondage.

We are going to begin with **Job 31:1** *"I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"* Job said something that really struck a chord in my heart. Look what he says here, "I made a covenant with my eyes..." He said, "I made a covenant with what I'm going to look at. I made a covenant of what I am going to allow to come into my life through my vision."

Our eyes are not only eyes that we see through, but they are really the focus of our heart. Do we focus on monetary gain, or do we focus on Christ? It's very important what you focus on. It's what you focus on that he's talking about here. He said, "I'm not going to think on a maid; I'm not going to look on her. Why should I lose out on what God has already given me. I'm going to focus on the things of God."

He said, "I made a covenant." Now we need to make a covenant. We need to get hold of ourselves and say, "Hey, eyeballs, let me tell you what we are going to look at now. We're going to read the holy things. We're going to look at good things, at things that edify. We're not going to allow just anything to come in here." I can't make that covenant for you but you need to make it yourself. You need to make a covenant with your eyes to allow only things into your heart that are pure and righteous. So the first thing that we have to deal with here are the eyes.

So Job said, "I'm going to be sure that my focus is right. No matter what I've suffered, no matter what I've gone through, no matter how many miserable counselors are here to condemn me, it's between me and God. It's between God and me as to what I focus on." You can allow your eyes to go to your enemies and begin to judge them, begin to criticize them, and want to begin to destroy them. But when you have the covenant with God, through the word of God, your eyes focus on Christ, not on your enemies. You bless your enemies and pray for those who spitefully use you.

Our problem is that our focus has been messed up. We are focusing on the wrong thing so it comes into our life and defeats us. You can't watch a bunch of garbage and get good stuff out. You can't do it. You need to make a covenant. You might think it gets too narrow. The more you walk with God it becomes narrower day by day.

You don't just allow everything into the temple of the Holy Ghost. You see, one day we have to give God an account for what we did with the temple; not just what we did with our spirit, not just what we did with our soul, but what we did in the body. The first place I need to start is in the covenant with my eyes. I'm not going to let things come into my sight, into my vision, into my focus that are going to deteriorate me and destroy me spiritually. My body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. We are born of God; we are in the Kingdom of God.

You don't realize how important it is to understand that you need to monitor what you watch. Somebody says, "Yeah, you're preaching about television." I'm not talking about television; I'm talking about God. We look at people, we look at things, we look at situations.

Job said, "The way I'm going to handle my eyes is that I'm going to make a covenant with them. God gave and God has taken away. My focus is going to be directed toward God. In everything I'm going to praise God." When his wife said, "Why don't you curse God and die" (**Job 2:9-10**), he said, "I can't. ***Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? Blessed be the name of the Lord.***"

You see, he never focused on the devil. He never focused on his loss. He never focused on what had happened. He focused on God being the author and finisher of his faith (**Heb. 12:2**). God gave it and God took it away. His focus was right. His focus was on the Lord, so his eyes were on the things of God.

The next thing we need to begin to watch is our mouth. Your mouth shows what is inside, what you have been watching. Your mouth tells what you have been thinking on. Your mouth is that thing which gets you in trouble. **James 1:19 says, "Be swift to hear but slow to speak."** Analyze what you are going to say; realize the consequences of the word you are about to speak. If somebody thinks you are a little slow, don't worry about it. I would rather be slow with man and quick with God.

We need to be a people who walk in the fear of the Lord. ***God said that there is power of life and death in the tongue (Prov. 18:21).*** Words that we speak are words that take us snare many times. **Prov. 6:2 *Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.***

It isn't what the Pastor preaches that takes me snared; it's my stupidity by opening my mouth before my brains engage. **Prov. 18:7 *A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.*** But **Prov. 10:11 says: *The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life:***

God is saying that we need to come to a place in God where (#1) we make a covenant with God about our eyes, and (#2), we are going to make another covenant about our mouth. Psalm 141:3 tells us what to do. **Ps. 141:3 *Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.*** Let God set a watch. Where is He going to set it? Before my mouth. Then look at this: "Keep the door of my lips." In other words, letting God correct you instantly when you start to speak a word that is not right. Let Him check you.

We are very careful not to offend in action; very careful not to offend in the way we do things with one another; but how many of us really know that when we do not offend in word we are perfect in deed. **James 3:2 says: "*For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*"**

I have to have a watch over my mouth. I have to have a guard, but I have to have one that knows right from wrong. I have to have someone with the power to shut it up. I have to give Him the permission. I have to have the desire for God to set a watch.

Would you like to have a watch over your mouth? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a church of people who didn't offend with their mouth; who were perfect people. It would be edifying wouldn't it. It would be strengthening to know that we could come together and not be criticized and analyzed; just come and get loved.

I've got to let the Lord set a watch before my mouth and keep the door of my lips. I want to be quick to hear but I want to be slow to speak. What does that mean? It means full surrender to God. It means I speak as an oracle of God (**1 Peter 4:11**).

The prophets didn't go around prophesying the wall paint off. They didn't go around laying hands on everybody and saying, "Thus saith the Lord: you are going to have fifty million bucks. Everything is going to be rosy for you." When the prophets spoke in those days, if you weren't right, you wanted to get right. I believe that is one of the offices of the five-fold ministries that is going to become real in the church; the office of the prophet who speaks words that are oracle words of God. They are not just words that have no power but they are powerful words.

So we need to be a people who say, "God, I don't just want to talk all the time." I had a real bad habit that I had to break. I had the answer before the question was ever asked, so I never listened to the question. I waited for them to breathe, and when they took a breath, I jumped in with the answer. It was the wrong answer but I got it in there.

We need to be quick to hear, let God analyze it, let God weigh it out, let God show us what the result of the word we are going to speak is, and then speak with few words. Speak with the few words which God would give us. I need continually to ask God to set a watch over my mouth. I don't want to be taken snare by these things.

And then the mind is something else, isn't it! Paul says in **Phil. 4:8**: "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*"

How many of us really believe that the words that we speak, the things we think on, fall in this category all the time. Anger, malice, murmuring, complaining, grumbling, griping, judgmental do not fall in any of these categories. We let our mind wander; we let our mind go off track. We say, "Well, it's all right, God understands." It must be a thousand times I have said this, "God understands everything but does He approve of it?"

The important thing is not that God understands. The important thing is, will God approve of what I am about to say. Does God approve of where my mind is? Did you know that we can come to church and never be in church? We can be like puppets. I mean mouthpieces say a lot of things but when they go to bed, they are just as dead as when they were up.

We have to have our mind on the things that are right. So (#3), not only do I need to make a covenant with my eyes and my mouth, I need to make a covenant with my mind. We need to say: "Lord, these are the things I am going to focus in on; these are the things I am going to speak; these are the things I am going to meditate on. And if they are not pure I don't want them."

When somebody comes to you with a bunch of garbage, you ought to tell them, "I'm a temple of the Holy Ghost, not a garbage dump. You don't dump here. This is to be filled with glory, praise, and honor." You know what happens? We let people dump garbage in our ears. Guess what comes out of us. Garbage. We say to somebody else, "Do you know what I heard about so-and-so. Man, this is really going to cut you;

this is going to get to you." You ought to say, "I don't want to hear garbage, man; I made a covenant with my mind that I am not going to receive that."

Phil. 4:7 says: "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

It would keep them, wouldn't it? What you think on, friend, is what you eventually become. **Prov. 23:7 "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."** Analyze your thoughts; analyze what you are thinking about. Is it something that you would like God to catch you thinking! "Well, nobody knows but me -- and God." When God puts the pressure on you one day, guess what comes out? It's what you have been thinking on. I need to make a covenant with my mind.

(#4) I have a heart that I need to deal with. **Prov. 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.** This is a commandment from God: "Keep your heart with all diligence." I'm commanded that I can keep it; I'm commanded that I must keep it. I'm responsible to give God an account of what I have allowed in my heart. I'm accountable, and you are accountable, and God says you had better do it with diligence. You had better not be slothful about it, better not be loose about it. He said you have to be ever watching what your heart goes off into.

You know, there are a lot of brothers and sisters today who are just flat messed up. They have let people plant things in their mind that got into their heart, and it seems like everything is defiled. That doesn't happen when whatever you put into your heart is pure; whatever you put in your heart is lovely; whatever you put in your heart is praiseworthy; whatever you put in your heart has virtue in it. If that is what you have put in there, that is what you are going to get out.

People know you by your mouth and by your actions, because what you do is motivated from your heart. **Jesus said in Matt. 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."** That person has nothing in his heart but the things that are pure, lovely, of a good report, virtue and praise. Things that he has let his mind bring into his heart; let his ears bring into his heart; let his eyes bring into his heart. We have power! We talk about power being dynamite, you know, and that is true. But power also means authority; it means ability. One day we have to give an account to God for all this stuff that is going on in our lives. You may say, "I wish I hadn't heard this." Well, it's like taking medicine; it may make you sick first but it will heal you. It may make you vomit the bad stuff you have in your stomach but it will heal you when it's all done.

(#5) There is another thing you really have to watch out for; it's called "ears." I think those are the biggest things we have on our body. Now, since we have two of them and one mouth, it must mean we should hear more than what we speak. Wouldn't you think that is probably what it meant? Do you think maybe that is where James wrote from, "Be quick to hear but slow to speak?"

If Eve had listened to God, and allowed it to get into her heart and into her mind that God meant what He said, Satan could never have deceived her. You see, you cannot be deceived when you have allowed truth to foster in your heart the things of God. She listened to the wrong voice. She listened, and everyone that is deceived listens always to the wrong voice.

Stephen, just before he was stoned to death, said: **"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye"** (Acts 7:51). We all talk about the

circumcision of the heart because that's where the Jew is. The Jew is not one outwardly, but inwardly having the circumcision of the heart.

But I want to tell you, there is a circumcision of the ears also, to be able to discern who is speaking to us. To be able to know, by those very thoughts coming into our minds, the things we are taking in. Is it pure, is it lovely, does it have virtue, does it have praise in it.

Somebody said, "Well, it's not always what I want to hear." God doesn't always tell me what I want to hear; He says "no" sometimes. Sometimes He will say "wait" when I want to go; sometimes He will say, "It's not your job." "But God, I can handle that job better than that person can." God said, "But it's not your job. Sit down. I want to talk to you."

We need a circumcision of the hearing. **Rev. 2:7 says: "He that hath an ear (he that hath the ability to hear, he that hath the spiritual ability) let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."** What is he supposed to hear? What the Spirit is saying to the churches! The Spirit is edifying the church, the Spirit is correcting the church, and the Spirit is bringing the church into new places. When we murmur and complain, grumble and gripe and say that nothing is going on, we are not hearing what the Spirit is saying to the church.

We need a covenant with our ears that all I am going to receive in this temple of the Holy Ghost is what the Spirit is saying to the church. He may say it through the Pastor or anybody else. They are not the important ones. It's who is speaking through them. I need an ear to hear a good report. God didn't say, "Go preach bad news." He said, "Go preach good news." He didn't say, "Murmur and complain, grumble and gripe." He said, "Be happy."

When we come to church and can't rejoice, it means our ears are hearing wrong, our vision is messed up, our mind is somewhere else. Have you ever brought your body to church and left your mind somewhere? You don't know what in the world got in there while you were gone. That is why you have to keep your mind stayed upon the Lord. **Isa. 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."** He will keep you in perfect peace if your mind is stayed on Him, so always bring your mind with you.

What we need to realize is that we have some responsibilities God is going to hold us accountable for. He is going to hold us accountable for what we hear, what we receive, what we allow to filter into our minds and into our heart. He's going to hold us accountable for what we let come in through our eyes. He's going to hold us accountable for the vision we have. He's going to hold us accountable for what we have centered in on in Christ.

If I'm not happy, it's not your fault. If I'm not happy it's not God's fault. If I'm not happy, the devil doesn't get any credit. My mind is gone! Somebody said to me one time, "That old boys' mind is gone." I said, "Where did it go?" He said, "I don't know, but he doesn't have it any more."

Christians, did you know that we can get like that? We can become Christian robots. "Well, Wednesday night, church time! Let's get on down to the church and get it over with. Boy, I wish I had stayed home and watched that program though. That was really going to be a good program. I wonder what they are doing right about now. Man, I wish I were there. I wish that preacher would shut up. I wish the church would burn down. I need to get home."

Our minds need to be with us. We need to guard that mind and say, "Bless God, I'm not going to let it wander off somewhere and let Satan drop a pill or something in it." Don't have a wandering mind. Put a rope on it, tie it down, or that thing could get you in trouble. What we need is a sound mind. **2 Tim. 1:7** *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

That's what God gave us. God gave us a sound mind. That is not a mind that makes a lot of sound, either; that's a solid mind. That's a mind that could be focused in through the eye of vision upon the Lord, and receive from God and filter it into your heart.

You see, as a Christian, you have to have selective hearing. You have to be selective about what you hear. You don't play around on the edge and say, "Well, I think that's OK if I listen to that. It sounds pretty good." You have to be selective.

You have to have a circumcised ear, an ear of the covenant, and say, "I am going to hear only what the Spirit is saying to the church. That's all I will receive. All this other stuff is just noise and I am not listening to it. All this other stuff doesn't fall under "virtuous," doesn't have any praiseworthiness in it, has nothing of good report in it, so I am not listening to it. I'm not even going to think on it."

I have selective hearing. That's why I like getting up in the morning. It's not just another day; it's the day the Lord really made. I don't know what kind of things He is going to unwrap today. It's been pretty exciting so far and it isn't even over yet. We really haven't taken control of our lives. We said, "God, I surrender to you," then God tries to talk to us and we are not even there.

Do you ever read your Bible, and then all of a sudden you are reading in Isaiah and the next thing you know you are in Hawaii. "It's kind of cold here. I would sure like to be some place like Hawaii right now." That is called a wandering mind. No telling what it is liable to bring back. What do we have to do? We have to meditate; we have to concentrate on what we are reading. When our mind starts to wander, say, "No, you don't; come on back here. We are going to read the Word."

The flesh doesn't want to serve God. I don't care how many times you bathed it today, it's still rotten. If it weren't, it would not be dying. I don't care how many times you deny it; it's still ready to try you one more time. Paul said in **Rom. 7:18-19**: *" For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do."*

Job had it right, didn't he? "I made a covenant with my eyes; I'll tell them what I will look on. My focus will be taken care of by me." There is always somebody trying to get your focus out of alignment. Jesus even said, "Look, you are going to have double vision." What is double vision? Whatever we are looking at, we can see double. A lot of Christians are doing that. Jesus would never have said that if it weren't so.

He said that you have to focus in, make a covenant that you be single of eye (Matt. 6:32; Luke 11:34); single of purpose; single of heart; have one master; don't let your mind wander off; don't let your sight go straying off some place else. Take control through the power of the Holy Spirit and say, "Listen, I'm making a covenant with my eyes. If somebody says, "Hey, look at this," just say, "I have a covenant with God. Is it righteous, is it pure, is it holy, is it lovely, is it beautiful, is it of a good report?" He says, "Man, I don't know but it sure looks good."

God is saying to me that, "The first thing I have to do, is make a covenant with my eyes; make a covenant with my ears; make a covenant with my mind; make a covenant with my heart; make a covenant with my mouth." Everything about me glorifies the Lord. Everything about us should glorify God; whether we live or whether we die, it should glorify the Lord. Whether we are running out here ninety miles an hour, we ought to have focus and vision on where we are going; not just running to be running. A lot of people are caught up in that; they are just running to be running.

Remember the account of the messenger who wanted to run to David, but he didn't have a message (**2 Sam. 18:19-32**). He ran good, he ran fast, and boy, he looked good; he's beating the other guy all to pieces. The other guy is just kind of steady but he's got a message. The guy who doesn't have a message is a lot lighter; he's traveling faster. David said, "How is it?" "Well, let me tell you how it goes; it's a battle down there. There's a real war going on down there." "Uh, put him over in the corner; he doesn't have anything to say, but here comes the one with the message."

He knew him by the way he ran. He had a focus, a single purpose; he wasn't running just to be running. He wasn't running to outrun somebody. He had a message that he had to deliver and he took the steps that were measured to him.

When your mind is in the right place, your ears are hearing right, your vision is right, your mind is thinking right, and your heart is right with God, you're not in a hurry. You don't have to compete with anybody else. You don't have to try to get the focus; you don't have to try to get notice in the church; you don't have to try to be somebody.

I know a couple that have a puppet ministry, and the puppets do exactly what they are told to do. I don't think that they are lying back there arguing with each other. "My turn is next, bless God; get out of the way all of you." No, they just kind of lay there. Why? Because they are fit for the master's use. They only come alive when my friend gets that hand working.

Each one of them has a message; that's the way it ought to be with us. We are just resting until God gets ready to touch us for the Master's use. Not only does God have a plan; we have a message. It isn't competition; it isn't fighting to get there first; it's being ready for the Master's touch. Whatever He wants to do with us is good.

We thank you, Lord Jesus. We want to make a covenant with our eyes, make a covenant with our ears, make a covenant with our mouths, make a covenant with our minds, and a covenant with our hearts, because, God, You told us to. Amen!