

I. Introduction

- A. Over the last several weeks we have looked at different activities of the Lord in the lives of key biblical figures.
- B. We’ve considered how He engages His people from multiple angles. Each look has affirmed the truth that He is a God who continually pursues His people to engage us, transform us, and be intimate with us.
- C. This week we are going to look at God’s interactions with Job and allow the Lord to instruct us of Himself.
- D. One of the lost practices of the church is approaching God and simply considering Him for who He is, not what He does nor what He commands us to do. We must ask ourselves, how often do we sit back and simply consider God?

II. The Knowledge of God

- A. The central facet to our relationship with God is our knowledge of God, or to say it differently, our understanding of Him. The way that we believe that God is determines how we relate to Him.

A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
- B. The challenge with most modern Christians is that we have embraced such a low view of God that we have lost our reverence, confidence, and perspective.
- C. We have considered God to be similar to us and thus have conceived of Him in a way that is altogether inferior to He actually is.

Psalm 50:21 “...You thought I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

III. Behold Our God is Great

- A. This was exactly Job’s predicament. As Job began to experience the pain of loss in his life, He began to accuse God of injustice, imagining somehow God was similar to man.
- B. Job went on to say that if he could appear before God that He would show God His injustice and Job would be delivered from His judge (Job 23:1-7, 31:35-37)

C. At the same time Job’s three friends accused Job of wrongdoing without a proper knowledge of God.

D. In chapter 32, we are introduced to a new character in Job’s story, Elihu. Elihu was a young man who had kept silent for 30 chapters of back and forth between Job and his three friends. Finally, when he speaks, he begins to declare the right knowledge of God.

Job 36:26 "Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; Nor can the number of His years be discovered. **Job 37:5** ... He does great things which we cannot comprehend.

E. Dramatically, after Elihu speaks, God appears visibly and rebukes Job and his three friends. Job repents with his face to the ground and God forgives him and restores him (Job 38 – 42).

Job 38:1-3 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: 2 "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? 3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

IV. Understanding Job as a Prophet

James 5:7-11 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

A. Some prophets speak a message others become the message. God used Job’s life as a prophetic message to declare the right knowledge of Himself.

B. He was clearly a picture of perseverance and faith through suffering but also a picture of one who comes to a right knowledge of God through difficulties and challenges.

C. Job is an example to the church at the end of the age. The church must come to a right knowledge of God in order to persevere through the challenges, difficulties, blessings and power that are directly in front of us.