

Sharing God's Word:



No question about it, Job was a upright man. He was also a man who knew God, and let it be known on every hand. Not only did Job know God, he knew he was known by God, who caused him to prosper and "hedged" his way from grief and ill-fortune.

Yet, as we understand from reading Job's story, there was something a little too complacent about Job's relationship with the Almighty. He had come to accept his favored status as his due. He was God's man; and God took good care of him, and that seemed only right and fair.

Thus, when troubles "mounted up like massive dark thunder-heads," and Job's life came undone--when God allowed Satan to rain torrents of terrible things upon Job, reducing him to worse than nothingness, because he still clung to life, but in utter torment--Job was convinced God was picking on him unfairly. God had turned against him without cause, or so Job thought.

Even his friends were convinced he must have been hiding some terrible sin, for which God was chastising him.

Then the "Young," Elihu, turned the "great debate" away from being Job- centered and focused instead upon the greatness of God. And this set the stage for God Himself to speak- which He did in almost the final chapters of the book.

Then, in the very last chapter, Job stands deflated and humbled before his Maker and confessed that he simply had not "got it" until that very moment. He said to God: *"I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: But now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I ahhor myself; and repent in dust and ashes"* (Job 42:5-6).

Job did not actually, physically see God, "..., *Thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me, and live*" (Ex. 33:20). But he did experience a cataclysmic revelation of God that shook him to his roots. The scales fell from his inner eyes, and he understood at last both the awesome, majestic greatness of God Almighty, and his own utter insignificance by comparison.

In the brief epilogue., with his lesson firmly learned, Job's story turns back to prosperity.

But what of us? Can we "see" God, as Job did? Have we seen Him? Have we learned the all important lesson God had for Job? God had to break Job down almost to nothingness before His beloved servant could understand the real relationship between himself and God. Must He do that to us also? Would we want Him to, if that is what it takes?

These are tough questions--but also vital ones, if we would genuinely see our God as He is, indeed not - the genial Big Guy in the sky who showers His love down on everybody, and is grateful for every crumb of

respect we send back in return. Our God is a mighty God, and it is worth everything to see Him as He is. A-MAN !!

LESSON LEARNED



Tea Time, He said, *"Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all."* (Luke 21:3).

According to F. W. Boreham: "An old Scottish woman

lived alone and had great trouble paying her bills and making ends meet. Nevertheless, she tithed very carefully what little she had and gave her "mite" faithfully to the church. When she was unable to attend services, she called for a deacon to come and collect her offering. This deacon knew her poverty, but he also knew she would be greatly offended if he didn't receive her tithe.

One afternoon when he stopped by, the old woman was sitting by the window having a cup of tea. "The tithe is on the mantel," she said. "Won't ye sit and have a cup of tea?" The deacon sat down, and old Mary offered him a cup of tea.

"Why, Mary," he exclaimed in surprise, "It's only water ye have!" "Aye!" she said, "but He makes it taste like tea!"

"And He looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And He said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had"(Luke 21:1-4).

When we're openhanded, God blesses what remains more than if we had kept it all for ourselves; and in the process, we have joy!

"You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give," said Winston Churchill. ☞

DEFRAUDING GOD !

Mal 3:6-12

6 "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts."

