



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 9



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DAY NINE

Job 21 - 23

The Question No One Wants to Answer

There is a question that has derailed more faith journeys than almost any other. You have probably asked it yourself at some point - quietly, or loudly, or in the middle of the night when the ceiling won't give you any answers. It goes something like this:

If God is just, why do people who ignore Him seem to live better lives than people who follow Him?

Job asks this question out loud, in public, to the friends who have been telling him his suffering is proof of his sin. And he refuses to let them look away from it.

Chapter 21 is one of the most uncomfortable chapters in the book - not because it is wrong, but because it is so relentlessly, uncomfortably right. Job turns the tables on his friends. They have been painting vivid portraits of the fate of the wicked: their light snuffed out, their children ruined, their memory erased. It is the tidy theology that makes suffering make sense. Sin leads to pain. Righteousness leads to blessing. The equation balances.

Job looks at the world around him and says: that is not what I see.

*“Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power?
They see their children established around them,”*

- Job 21:7-8

He is not being cynical. He is being a witness. He has watched the world long enough to know that the equation his friends are selling does not always balance. The wicked grow old. Their houses are safe. Their children dance. Their bulls breed. They spend their years in prosperity - and they tell God to leave them alone, and God appears to.

*- This is the observation that has shaken more people loose
from faith than perhaps any argument a philosopher has
ever constructed.*

And Job is not asking it to destroy faith. He is asking it because he is a man committed to truth, and this is the truth he sees. He will not pretend the world looks different than it does just to make his friends' theology work. He will not protect the framework at the cost of his integrity.

God is not threatened by honest observation. He did not put Job's words in Scripture to embarrass Himself. He put them there because He knew we would need to read them. He knew we would need to know we are not the first to notice what Job noticed.

Job's answer to the problem is not a resolution - it is a deferral. He says: their day is coming. They are reserved for calamity. God's justice is real, even when it is not visible yet. He does not deny that the wicked prosper. He refuses to pretend that prosperity is the whole story.

- What you see is not all there is. The last chapter hasn't been written yet.

Eliphaz steps forward again in chapter 22 - and this time he drops all pretence. Up until now the friends have been implying that Job has sinned. Now Eliphaz invents specifics. He accuses Job of stripping the poor of their clothing, refusing water to the weary, withholding bread from the hungry, sending widows away empty-handed, crushing the fatherless.

None of it is true. We know that from chapter 1. Job is blameless. But Eliphaz does not know that, and he has run out of other explanations, so he fills the silence with accusations. When the framework demands a crime and the evidence won't supply one, sometimes people manufacture it.

When people cannot explain your suffering, some of them will explain it by explaining you. Do not let someone else's need for an answer become a verdict on your character.

But buried inside Eliphaz's rebuke is something genuine - an invitation that, stripped of its accusatory context, is actually beautiful. He says: submit to God and be at peace. Return to the Almighty. If you return to him, he will restore you. Delight yourself in the Almighty.

He is saying it to the wrong person for the wrong reasons. But the words themselves are not wrong. And sometimes truth arrives in the mouth of someone who doesn't fully understand what they're saying.

God can speak through imperfect messengers. He has been doing it since the beginning.

Chapter 23 is where the day turns. Where the air changes. Where Job stops arguing and starts searching.

He is not looking for a debate any more. He is looking for God. Not an explanation - God Himself. He wants to find him, to come to his dwelling, to lay his case before him, to hear what God would say in return. Not a verdict. A conversation. A presence.

*“If only I knew where to find him;
if only I could go to his dwelling!”*

- Job 23:3

There is something in that cry that transcends Job's situation entirely. How many people have sat exactly where Job is sitting -

not in ashes necessarily, but in the quiet devastation of a life that isn't going the way it was supposed to - and said, from somewhere deep and honest: I just want to find God. I just want to know where He is. I just want to feel that He is real and that He is near and that none of this is happening in a universe that has forgotten me.

That longing is not a sign of weak faith. It is the deepest kind of faith there is - the kind that will not settle for answers about God when what it really wants is God Himself.

Job then says something that should be marked and memorised and returned to on every dark morning:

*“But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.*

” - Job 23:10

He knows the way that I take. Not: I know where God is. Not: I understand what He is doing. But: He knows where I am. He has not lost sight of me. The testing is real - Job does not minimize it, does not call it something smaller than it is. But the testing has a purpose. And the purpose is gold.

Gold is not made in comfortable places. It is made in fire. And the God who put you in the fire is the same God who is watching the temperature, who knows exactly how long, who will not let you be consumed. You will come forth as gold.

Job cannot see God right now. He looks to the east and God is not there. He looks to the west and cannot find him. North and south - nothing. God feels completely absent. And yet Job finishes the chapter not in despair but in a strange, hard-won steadiness. Because he has landed on the one thing that does not depend on what he can see: God knows where he is. God sees the way he is taking. God is present even in the hiddenness.

That is enough. Not easy. Not painless. But enough.

Speak this over yourself today:

He knows the way that I take.

I may not be able to find Him in this season -

but He has never lost sight of me.

When He has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

TOMORROW - Day 10 Job 24–28

Job is about to make his boldest speech yet - and then someone in the room says something so unexpectedly beautiful about the wisdom of God that it stops everything cold. Come back tomorrow.

Day 9 of 365



THE

STORY

WITHIN

Within every person lies a story of hope, struggle, growth, and purpose. Join the journey of self-discovery as we uncover the lessons, courage, and inspiration hidden beneath life's experiences.

*Your story matters and its greatest chapter
may still be ahead.*

**MON., TUES. & THURS.
7:30AM & 6:30PM**

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