

Prayers, Relationships

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Job 42.

B. Job has been shown two unforgettable aspects of God's nature.

1. What God did is so far beyond man that there is no possibility of challenge.
2. There is a depth of evil in humanity that God has to deal with.

II. Job's new beginning.

A. Job has learned his lesson about the pride within him.

1. Our view of ourselves is rather superficial.
2. It is a shocking revelation to find that what we thought to be love and righteousness is not.

B. Job's friends thought they were defending God's honor, but they are charged with defaming the name of God themselves.

1. They distorted the being of God.
2. God is deeply insulted by sin, but He does not immediately lash out at every sin.
3. The goodness of God is designed to lead to repentance.
4. The friends became the devil's instruments to torment Job, so God calls them to account.

C. God said that Job said what is right about God.

1. Job admits that the problem was in him and not in God.
2. Job was true to the facts of God as he saw them.
3. Job took his problem to God even though God was his problem.
4. Job declares that God is God, which is the highest expression of faith.

D. The friends' offerings represented perfect service, total energy, and true acceptance before God.

1. All these offerings picture Christ.

2. Many get angry with God because He has rejected their service for Him, but He labors to show us that none of that can stand in His presence.

3. We must lean upon what God has done in Christ alone.

E. Reception and forgiveness must come through prayer.

1. Prayer is so important that God would not restore without it.

2. James says one has not because he asks not.

3. There is nothing more contrary to a Christian spirit than an unforgiving spirit.

F. The restoration of Job.

1. God is love.

2. He puts us through trials because He is merciful.

3. If we wait, we will see it as clearly as Job did.

4. Job receives far more than he lost.

5. Job gave his daughters an equal inheritance as sons, showing that in Christ there is neither male nor female.

6. Job received a new beginning. We must live our new beginning with attitudes of forgiveness and acceptance.

Application questions:

1. What did Job say that is right about God?

2. How can it be said that God puts us through trials because He is merciful? Explain.

3. Have you ever found yourselves in the position of Jobs' friends? How could you have acted differently? Explain.
