

2018 Leadership Conference Callaway Gardens

Job: Responding to Calamity

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Outline

1. The Opening Act
2. The Great Debate
3. The Conclusion
4. Three Truths
5. Three Applications

What is Calamity?

- Merriam-Webster:
 - 1: a disastrous event marked by great loss and lasting distress and suffering
 - 2: a state of deep distress or misery caused by major misfortune or loss
- Traits of a Calamity
 - Great Loss
 - Out of our Control
 - Perception of Calamity can be Relative

How do we typically respond to Calamity?

- Grief / Mourning / Anger
- Blame to Seek Justice or Place Fault (Why?)
 - The Victim (“It was their fault.”)
 - An Enemy (i.e. Chaldeans / Bin Laden)
 - Satan (“God would never want bad things to happen to good people.”)
 - God (“Angry with God.”)

The Opening Act (Chapters 1 & 2)

- Use of Dramatic Irony
- God as the instigator
 - Where did you come from?
 - Have you considered my servant Job?
- Job is 'perfect and upright'
- Satan can't touch Job without God
 - "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?"
 - "But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath"

Opening Act: Job's Calamity: Response 1

- Job tore his robe, shaved his head and fell to the ground in worship.

“Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return thither: The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

- Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Opening Act: Job's Calamity: Response 2

- Job's Wife: "Curse God and Die!"
"Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?"
- Job did not sin

Opening Act: Primary Scene

- Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar arrive to sympathize and comfort
- Wept aloud, tore their clothes and sprinkled dust on their heads
- Sat with him 7 days and 7 nights silently because of Job's great suffering.

Opening Act: What's not here?

- An equal struggle between God and Satan
- God chastening Satan for his behavior
- Retaliation against Sabeans and Chaldeans
- Blame on anyone but God by Job.
- Removal of Job's Boils

The Debate: Eliphaz, Bildad & Zophar vs. Job

- Observations of the Debate
 - The Friends
 - Begins as an appeal to Job
 - Ends as passionate accusation
 - Job
 - Begins as lamentation
 - Ends as a passionate defense

The Debate: The Friend's Main Points

- Job's Guilt
 - The Law of the Harvest
Gal 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."
- Man's Natural Corruption
- Need to Repent for Redemption

The Friends: Job's Guilt via LOH

- Job 4:7-9 (Eliphaz)
 - The upright are not destroyed;
 - Those who plow evil will reap it;
- Job 8:3-4; 20; (Bildad)
 - Your children sinned and reaped their penalty
 - God does not reject a blameless man OR strengthen evildoers

The Friends: Job's Guilt via Corruption

- Job 15: 14-16 (Eliphaz)
 - How can man be pure or righteous?
 - If God doesn't trust the holy ones, how much less is man who is vile and corrupt?
- Job 25: 4-6 (Bildad)
 - How can man be righteous or pure?
 - If even the heavens aren't pure to God, how much less is man?

The Friends: Job's Need to Repent

- Job 22:21-26 (Eliphaz)
 - Submit to God; in this way prosperity will come to you.
 - If you return to God, you will be restored.
- Job 11:13-19 (Zophar)
 - Devote your heart to God, put away sin, then you will forget your trouble like waters gone by.

The Debate: Job's Main Points

- Declares his Innocence
- Refutes Law of the Harvest
- Desire for his 'Day in Court'

Job: Declares Innocence

- Job 27:3-5

“God forbid that I should justify you: Till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: My heart shall not reproach *me* so long as I live.”

Job: Refutes Law of Harvest

- Job 2:10 (Response to Wife)
 - Shall we accept good from God and not evil?
- Job 21:7-9
 - Why do wicked live on and increase; keep their children; homes are safe with no fear?
- Job 21:34
 - How can you console me with nonsense and Falsehood?

Job: Desire for his 'Day in Court'

- Job 9:32-35
 - If only there were someone to arbitrate between us
 - Then I would speak without fear of him.
- Job 23: 3-7
 - If only I could find Him;
 - I could present my case and be delivered from my Judge.
- Job thinks he will win, based on the LOH

The Missing Link: God's Sovereignty

- Job 38-41

- 38:2-4

- “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?”

- 40:8

- “Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? Wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?”

- 41:11

- “Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.”

The Conclusion: Job's Repentance

- Job 40: 1-5 (Job's First Response)
 - I am unworthy, I have no answer
- Job 42: 1-6 (Job's Revised Response)
 - I know you can do all things
 - I spoke of things I didn't understand
 - I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes

The Conclusion: Wrap Up

- God is angry with the 3 friends
 - They did not speak what was right, as Job did.
- Job's prayer
 - Friends escape justice through Job's prayer
 - Job restored after he had prayed for his friends.

Truth #1: God's Complete Sovereignty

- Job 38-41
 - 41:11 “Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.”
- Colossians 1:16-17

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers...”

Truth #1: God's Complete Sovereignty

- Job 1:11 & 2:5
 - “But put forth thine hand now...”
- Isaiah 45:7
 - “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.”
- God is the only source of all circumstances in life.

Truth #2: The Law of the Harvest

- Job's Friends: Temporal circumstances are determined by behavior
- Temporal Wisdom but not Temporal Absolute
 - John 5:14 (Jesus to healed invalid)
 - “Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee”
 - John 9:1-6 (Jesus heals blind man)
 - Who sinned? No one; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

Truth #2: The Law of the Harvest

- Temporal circumstances determined by God
 - Psalm 75:6-7 “...I put one down and set up another.”
 - James 4:13-17 “If it’s the Lord’s will, we will do this or that..”
- Eternal circumstances determined by behavior
 - 1 Cor 3:5-11 Every man’s work will be made manifest in eternity by fire: If it survives = reward; If it burns = suffer loss;

Truth #2: The Law of the Harvest

- Conclusion: The Law of the Harvest is to be applied to the eternal.
 - You will not regret your circumstances in eternity. But you will regret sin and unbelief in response to circumstances.
- Salvation by Grace / Separate from Works
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
 - “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Truth #3: Not Seeking Justice is Faith

- Not Seeking Justice is an expression of Faith in God's Sovereignty & Eternal Law of the Harvest
 - Job 42:8
Job's final test was to pray for his friends, not seeking justice.
 - Job 42:10
Job was renewed after he showed this act of faith.

Application #1: Establish God as Sovereign

- Establish God as Sovereign
 - The source of all things in your life
 - Prepare your family
 - When calamity comes, blame God

Application #1.a: God is the ultimate source

- Isaiah 45:7
 - “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.”
- Isaiah 46:9-10
 - “..My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish My good pleasure.”
- There is no question who is responsible for the circumstances in my life.

Application #1.b: Prepare your family

- Focus on Contentment & Thankfulness
 - Hebrews 13:5
 - Philippians 4
- Teach them God's definition of Success
- Prepare them for Calamity
 - Turn over all possessions and family in prayer
 - Don't ask why, but what I can learn from it and how I can use it to further God's kingdom.
 - Unfinished Business by Ron Dunn

Application #1.c: Blame God

- Allows you to perceive the contributing actors in your calamity as the hand of God.
- Enables you to forgive those who wronged you.
- Enables you to forgive yourself for any part you might have played.

Application #2: Do Not Seek Justice

- Matthew 5:43-48 “Love your enemies..”
- Matthew 6:9-13 “The Lord’s Prayer” (ctd..)
- Forgiveness and intercession require the suspension of temporal justice.
- The only way to truly follow this command is to believe that the Law of the Harvest plays out in the eternal.

Application #3: Place your hope in the Eternal

- Mathew 6:19-21
- Romans 8:28
- There is very little evidence on earth that supports these two statements. It must be eternal.
- The only way to reconcile these verses with our experience is to place your faith in the character of God, not your ability to understand.

Application #3: Place your hope in the Eternal

- God won the bet by the end of Job 2. What was the purpose of the rest of the story?
 - Romans 5:3-5
 - Philippians 1:6
- The trials of this life are a redemptive work from the hand of God for the purpose of bringing Glory to God and us closer to Him.