

**THE BOOK OF JOB
CHAPTER 23**

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible characterizes certain individuals as having great wisdom. (Gen. 41.39; 1 Sam. 14.20)
2. Though Solomon was the wisest to have ever lived, he could not understand the ways of God. (1 Kings 4.29-34; Ecc. 3.11)
3. In Job 23, we find three principles that will help when we are perplexed by the ways of God. (cf. Job 22.4,5)

I. GOD LISTENS

- A. Job desired to approach God.
1. **JOB 23.1,2:** Job was not looking for answers from his friends, but from his God. (cf. Job 13.3)
 2. God wants to hear from you. (Phil. 4.6; Matt. 6.8)
 3. We can approach God boldly. (Job 23.3-5; Heb. 4.16)
- B. Job was willing to accept God's answers.
1. **JOB 23.5,6:** *"I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me."*
 2. I need to accept God's answers. (Matt. 26.39; Heb. 5.7)

II. GOD KNOWS

- A. God's ways are unknown to man.
1. **JOB 23.8,9:** *"I cannot perceive Him"* (cf. Job 9.11)
 2. Without divine revelation, we cannot understand the thoughts and ways of God. (Isa. 55.8,9)
- B. Man's ways are known to God.
1. **JOB 23.10,11:** *"But He knows the way I take"*
 2. God knows your heart. (Ps. 11.4; Gen. 20.5)

III. GOD JUDGES

- A. God is sovereign
1. **JOB 23.13:** *"Who can make Him change?"* (Job 9.12)
 2. **JOB 23.14:** *"For He performs what is appointed"*
- B. God is to be feared. (Job 23.15; Matt. 10.28; Hag. 1.9)

CONCLUSION: We may not understand, but we trust Him.

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

June 9, 2024

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

THE WISE SHALL SHINE

How beautiful it is to look up and see the darkness blanketed with the brightness of the starlit sky. The contrast between them is stark. The darkness of the night utterly fails to overcome the shining light. The darker the night the brighter the light emanates from its nighttime backdrop.

In a vision concerning future events an angel expresses this sentiment to Daniel: *"Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever"* (Dan. 12.3). Those who live righteously in a dark world and are active in helping others do the same are like the bright stars in the night sky.

Jesus uses a similar analogy describing the influence of the faithful in a world of darkness. Lanterns are not put under a basket but are clearly for the purpose of lighting up a room. The application? As lanterns, Christians are to *"let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matt. 5.16).

Christians ought to be distinct from the crowd. Without the world seeing us as any different from them, there is no motivation for them to change. However, if we let our light shine, we become a beacon from a lighthouse showing the way to a safe harbor.

With the world in such a state of moral obliquity, those who are lost need us to a living demonstration of hope, faith and love, to show the world, Christ living in us.

CLP

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THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED
JOHN 13:23

INTRODUCTION:

1. The apostle John is known as the disciple whom Jesus loved.
2. Do you know that you are loved by Jesus?

I. JOHN FELT LOVED

- A. What does it mean to be the disciples whom Jesus loved?
 1. He was the disciple. (Mark 3.14; cf. John 21.24)
 2. Love (agape): A logical love as one acts in the best interest of another.
 3. John was not the only one who was loved by Jesus. (Mark 10.21; John 11.3,5,36; Gal. 2.20; Rev. 1.5)
- B. Do you feel loved by Jesus?
 1. **HEBREWS 4.15,16:** Jesus is there for us. (Heb. 7.25)
 2. **HEBREWS 7.25; 9.24:** Jesus defends us.
 3. But love should not be one-sided. (1 John 4.19)

II. OTHERS KNEW THAT JOHN WAS LOVED

- A. Mary ran to Peter and John to report the empty tomb.
 1. **JOHN 20.2:** “*So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved*”
 2. Love (fileo): The love of a friend.
- B. Do others know that you are loved by Jesus?

III. HOW CAN I KNOW THAT I AM LOVED?

- A. We can feel the love of Jesus by how we worship.
 1. **JOHN 13.21-23:** John worshipped with Jesus.
 2. To feel His love, put more effort into worship.
- B. We can feel the love of Jesus when we are alone.
 1. **JOHN 19.25-27:** John found himself alone.
 2. When you feel alone, remember that you are loved.
- C. We can feel the love of Jesus when we hurt.
 1. **JOHN 20.1,2:** How did John feel? (Luke 24.17)
 2. When you feel broken, remember that you are loved.
- D. We can feel the love of Jesus in day-to-day life.
 1. **JOHN 21.7:** John saw Jesus while he was at work.
 2. In the harsh reality of life, remember you are loved.
- E. We can feel the love of Jesus when we glorify Him. This is our purpose! (John 21.20-25)

CONCLUSION: Do you really know that you are loved?

TAKE THE NAME OF JESUS WITH YOU

The sermon on the mount is the first recorded sermon that we have of Jesus. In that sermon, Jesus focused on how to be righteous in a way that exceeded the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 5.20). After He finished, His audience was “*astonished...for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes*” (Matt. 7.28,29).

The name of Jesus carries with it great authority. As a man, Jesus lived in humility. It was the life of a slave. He chose to give up all the power, majesty, and glory of heaven to be treated as a common criminal and die for our sakes (Phil. 2.6-8). As a result of His redemptive work, “*Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name*” (Phil. 2.9). What is the significance of the name of Jesus that God has given Him? The writer goes on to explain, “*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow*” (Phi. 2.10). The name of Jesus would be a name that was attached to authority.

The Bible concept of authority is twofold. First, it is connected with having the right. To have authority is to have the right to tell others what to do and what not to do. Second, it is connected with having power. The one who has authority not only has the right to tell others what to do but has the power to enforce that right. What is the extent of His authority? Philippians 2.9 tells us that “*every knee should bow.*” There will not be a single knee unbent. Every single knee will bow in reverence and submission to Jesus. The writer further elaborates on the reach of His authority: “*of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth*” (Phil. 2.10).

We find the same thought expressed at the end of Matthew. Before the great commission, Jesus said, “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth*” (Matt. 28.18). He was not given some authority. He was given all authority. And that authority extends to all in heaven and all who are on earth. The only one who is exempt from His authority is God (1 Cor. 15.27,28).

Jesus tells us that the wise are those who “*hear these sayings of Mine and does them*” (Matt. 7.24). We are living under the “*law of Christ*” (Gal. 6.2). Every day, we need to take the name of Jesus with us. Every morning, we need to wake up and remember that Jesus is the authority in our lives. Every temptation we are to resist as we deny ourselves and follow Jesus (Luke 9.23). The worship of the church is to be conducted in submission to His arrangement as the head of the church (Eph. 1.22,23).

To take the name of Jesus with us is to acknowledge that He has the right to tell us how to live our lives. But it is our love that compels us to submit to His authority (John 14.15).