

FOREST, TREES, & VINES

FOREST, TREES, & VINES | PT.2 | PASTOR RYAN ROBERTS

JOB 14:7-17 “For there is hope for a tree,
if it be cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that its shoots will not cease.

⁸ Though its root grow old in the earth,
and its stump die in the soil,

⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put out branches like a young plant.

¹⁰ But a man dies and is laid low;
man breathes his last, and where is he?

¹¹ As waters fail from a lake
and a river wastes away and dries up,
¹² so a man lies down and rises not again;
till the heavens are no more he will not awake
or be roused out of his sleep.

Challenge: Remember the first verse throughout the entire story.

JOB 1:1-22

**JOB IS A RIGHTEOUS MAN BEFORE GOD, AND HE IS
BLESSED WITH PROSPERITY. BUT: THE STORY TAKES A
DRAMATIC TURN**

JOB 1:6-12

This premise sets the stage for a deep conversation and
exploration of **suffering, loyalty, and divine justice.**

**JOB, DOES NOT CURSE GOD... HE POSES QUESTIONS, HE
SPEAKS ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES OF HIS SUFFERING...
BUT HE DOES NOT CURSE GOD.**

“YOU CAN’T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES”.... IT’S FOCUSING ON A CLUSTER OF DETAILS, BUT FAILING TO SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE.

TRUTH: YOU MAY BE STANDING AMONG A RED WOOD FOREST! BUT IF YOU ONLY NOTICE THE ONE UGLY, DEAD STUMP, YOU MISSED THE PICTURE OF GOD’S GRACE AND BEAUTY.

WHAT IS REALITY?

- A. IS REALITY DEFINED DIFFERENTLY FOR A BELIEVER?
- B. IS REALITY A SET OF RULES?
- C. IS REALITY DETERMINED BY CIRCUMSTANCE, CHOICES, GOD, OR ALL OF THE ABOVE?
- D. CAN REALITY BE CHANGED OR CHALLENGED?

Reality *n.* in philosophy, that which genuinely exists, usually in contrast to that which only seems to exist. (APA Dictionary of Psychology, 2018)

Reality *n.*

- 1:** the quality or state of being real
- 2:** a real event, entity, or state of affairs
- 3:** television programming that features people (especially people who are not professional actors) dealing with real-life situations or participating in contrived activities (such as competitions)

(Webster’s Dictionary)

TRUTH: SOMETIMES REALITY IS RELATIVE TO WHAT IS PERCEIVED (THOUGHTS, KNOWLEDGE, ETC.)

ROMANS 8:18-28

IN CHRIST WE ARE...

- **BORN AGAIN**, WHEN WE REPENT OF OUR SINS, TRUST OUR FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS,
- WE ARE **WASHED CLEAN, PURIFIED, HEALED, DELIVERED**,
- AND GIVEN A **NEW LENEAGE** AS A CHILD OF GOD... NOT OF THE FLESH BUT **OF THE SPIRIT**...
- AND HE IS SO GOOD THAT WHAT HE DOES WITHIN OUR SOUL AND SPIRIT, ALSO **IMPACTS AND HEALS OUR PHYSICAL BODIES**.... AND LIFE BECOMES A PROCESS OF DYING TO THE DEEDS OF THE FLESH.

BUT THERE'S STILL AN ISSUE OF HUMAN SUFFERING....

REMEMBER THE KINGDOM'S PROMISES ARE NOT BASED ON WHAT WE CAN SEE BUT WHAT WE KNOW BY FAITH!

Hebrews 11:1-3

JOB 9:19-24

"If it is not GOD, who then is it?"

JOB 9:25-35, JOB 31:2-8; 38-40, JOB 31: 38-40

**HIS FRIENDS HAVE GOT TO BE THINKING... THIS IS IT!
JUDGEMENT WILL REIN DOWN FULLY ON JOB!**

Yet God is silent.

**JOB'S WORDS HAVE SILENCED. HIS 3 FRIENDS WORDS
HAVE SILENCED.**

ELIHU:

He almost gets things right in his rebuttal but he **twists the truth** just a little within himself and **spits out hurt** birthed in **anger** at Job.

JOB 32:1-22

Elihu's approach is born in anger and lots of opinions.

JOB 32:12-18

**HE TRULY BELIEVES THAT JOB HAS SINNED, AND
ESSENTIALLY THINKS THAT JOB IS A SINNER WHO FAILED
TO LISTEN TO GOD. THAT JOB IS MOCKING GOD BECAUSE
HE WOULDN'T JUST ACCEPT THAT HE IS A SINNER AND
DESERVES THIS PUNISHMENT.**

ELIHU'S OPINIONS:

- **-TOWARDS THE 3 FRIENDS: NON-ADEQUATE ANSWER TO JOBS QUESTIONS, UNWISE AND FOOLISH.**
- **-TOWARDS JOB: ARROGANT, WRONG, AND FULL OF PRIDE... A MOCKER OF GOD.**

JOB 34:10-12

REMEMBER:

- -Job never claimed that he was NOT a sinner or never sinned; he claimed he was righteous before God.
- -God Himself calls Job blameless! (Chapter 1)

Elihu is looking at all the wrong things.

NOW IN HIS WORDS.... He says **some truth:**

1. God is gracious Ch.33:24
2. God is just Ch.34-35 (10-12)
3. God is superior Ch.33:12-13
4. God is majestic yet gentle Ch.33:7
5. God is purposeful in His actions Ch.36

TRUTH: THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN SAY GREAT THINGS ABOUT GOD, AND HAVE SOME TRUTH IN THEIR SPEECH, BUT THEY ARE **TALKING THE TALK** BUT NOT **WALKING THE WALK**.

PROVERBS 18:2

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN ACCUMULATING INFORMATION VERSUS HAVING WISDOM

OUR WORLD:

- SIN IS CELEBRATED, CHRISTIANITY IS NOT ONLY CRITICIZED BUT DOWNPLAYED AS FAIRYTALES OR LIES
- CORE MORALS AND VALUES FOUNDED IN FAITH SEEM TO BE TREATED AS OUTDATED OR MISGUIDED
- WE SEEM TO HAVE AN INCREASE IN PERSONAL, OFTEN INTERNAL SUFFERING.

JOB 34:23-26

JOB 37:22-23 God is clothed with awesome majesty.

²³ The Almighty—**we cannot find him**;
he is great in power;
justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate.

IS THERE A MEDIATOR?

IS THERE A GO BETWEEN WHO CAN POSSIBLY SOLVE THIS ISSUE?

CAN GOD BE FOUND BY MAN?

WHAT ABOUT US TODAY?

HEBREWS 9:1-15

FOR ALL THE SUFFERING IN THE WORLD... THERE IS A MEDIATOR.

GOD CAME IN THE FORM OF A MAN, HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST.