

Job 32- 37 – A young man’s wisdom

Elihu of the family of Ram – an angry young man 32: 1 - 5

- Job is suffering because he has sinned – Eliphaz, Zophar and Bildad
- Job has sinned in his suffering – Elihu

Elihu - a true friend to Job & his 3 friends. An active listener to Job and to God.

1) Elihu’s 1st speech 32:6 – 33:33 – The God who speaks

- Through his prophets. Through his wisdom not man’s, 32: 6 – 16
- God’s voice must be heard – it can’t be bottled up! 32: 17 – 22
- God speaks through conscience 33: 1 – 18
- God speaks through suffering 33: 19 – 28

God speaks and He speaks to save. Job 33:14

2) Elihu’s 2nd speech Job 34 – God is Just!

- Elihu summarises Job’s accusation Job 34: 5 – 9
- Elihu tells Job God cannot do wrong 34: 10- 11
- Elihu tells Job God is good 34: 12 – 15
- God does judge justly 34: 16 – 28
 - i. He has no favourites 18, 19
 - ii. He judges with certainty 20
 - iii. He judges with all the facts 21 – 25
 - iv. He judges publicly 26 – 28
 - v. He judges even if His judgement is delayed 29,30
- Job you need to repent! 31 - 33

3) Elihu’s 3rd speech – Why be good? Remember, God is God!

- Why be good is the wrong question to ask!
- Nothing we do affects the heavens – Ephesians 2:8,9
- Nothing we do can put God in debt to us. God is good, just and loving
- A cry without faith is just a cry. To complain to God that he doesn’t act is to live outside His will, to live by sight not by faith.

4) Elihu’s 4th Speech – Job look to God not your suffering Job 36, 37

- God is mighty 5 – 21
- God is powerful 22 – 33
- See the world God created – The weather 37: 1 – 12, The skies above 37: 13 - 24

Digging Deeper

Read Job 32: 1 – 5

1. Have you experienced a time when someone unexpected has come alongside you and helped you see things more clearly? Share this with the group.
2. Why is Elihu angry? What sort of anger is he expressing? What do you get angry about?
3. What is active listening? Is it a skill you need to develop?
4. When we have been Christians a while and know how God works, does this make it easier or harder to listen to people, when we know the answer'?

Job 32: 6 – 37:24 You may like to have 4 people read the 4 speeches recorded here.

1. What are the four main themes of Elihu's speeches?
2. Think about a situation that you currently face where it seems God is inactive and change is impossible. Share that with the group and identify which of the 4 speeches speaks into that situation.

Growing younger

1. What are some of the barriers that need to be crossed if as a church we take growing younger seriously?
2. What are the benefits of cross generational communities?