

Faith In The Storm part 12

Job 15:1-35

The Title Of The Message: “Windy Accusations”

The Key Word: Empty

The Thought: Sometimes we will be accused of being windbags by people who are windbags although their intentions may be good.

The Breakdown:

Verses 1-13 Windy Words

Verses 14-26 Windy Doctrine

Verses 27-35 Windy Knowledge

Verses 1-13 Windy Words

Job 15:1-3 NKJV - Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: 2 NKJV - "Should a wise man answer with empty knowledge, And fill himself with the east wind? 3 NKJV - Should he reason with unprofitable talk, Or by speeches with which he can do no good?

Then Eliphaz... We have just come off of Job's answers to his miserable comforters and now Eliphaz frustrated with Job's seeming pride and hypocrisy, gets mean in his answer to Job. Notice he says should a wise man answer with empty knowledge, and fill himself with the east wind? Basically he's calling Job a big wind bag someone who speaks tons of words and has nothing to say that means anything. The word "Empty" in Hebrew is "Ruach" and means several things depending on the context, "breath; air; strength; wind; breeze; spirit (of

natural man, his life or soul, his inner emotions, and speaks of angels, good and fallen); courage; temper (or mindset); Spirit.” So as we see this word can mean many things but here in its context Eliphaz has in mind the emptiness of air, or wind. He couches this in nice words admitting that Job is a wise man, “**should a wise man answer**”.... And then goes on to say “use empty words and fill himself with the east wind” It’s the kind insult. Saying Job you’re a man of wisdom and now you’re nothing but a wind bag of lies and excuses.

Should he reason with... And now Eliphaz waste no time just saying it, all of you’re talking and speeches, doesn’t do you any good, and it doesn’t do anyone else any good! We can see plainly that you’re in sin.

Job 15:4-6 NKJV - Yes, you cast off fear, And restrain prayer before God. 5 NKJV - For your iniquity teaches your mouth, And you choose the tongue of the crafty. 6 NKJV - Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; Yes, your own lips testify against you.

You cast off fear... Eliphaz accuses Job of losing or literally throwing away his fear for God, basically saying Job you don’t have any fear of God, that’s why your prayers just hit the floor, they go no where, your sin dictates what you are saying, and your using the subtle lies of those who think they are sly, its your own mouth not mine that reveals your wicked heart.

Proverbs 21:12 (NKJV) The righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked, Overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness.

Psalms 147:6 (NKJV) The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.

What Eliphaz says is right and true and so are these verse when applied in to the right person.

Job 15:7-13 NKJV - "Are you the first man who was born? Or were you made before the hills? 8 NKJV - Have you heard the counsel of God? Do you limit wisdom to yourself? 9 NKJV - What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not in us? 10 NKJV - Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us, Much older than your father. 11 NKJV - Are the consolations of God too small for you, And the word spoken gently with you? 12 NKJV - Why does your heart carry you away, And what do your eyes wink at, 13 NKJV - That you turn your spirit against God, And let such words go out of your mouth?

Are you the first man... Notice that Eliphaz argues for there own wisdom saying look Job you weren't the first person to be born, some of here are older than you we knew your father, and your not the only one with wisdom! We know just as much if not more than you because we've lived longer than you!

Are the consolations of God... This is comical in a way, although at the time probably not for Job or even the men that were supposed to be there to console him, and so Eliphaz says haven't we given you encouragement and good advice in a gentle way, God sent us and doesn't that mean anything to you? Why are you letting your heart, bringing these words from your mouth turning you against God?

Reading this is weird for me, it reminds me of this cancel culture we are living in Eliphaz and the rest of Job's friends come to the conclusion that Job is going through this because of sin, he makes his case that he is not, he speaks to the Lord in a frank way and because Job doesn't agree with their conclusion they decide he's against them and against God, we should remember that just because someone doesn't agree with your conclusion doesn't mean they are wrong or in sin, as a matter of fact you may be wrong or in sin because of the way you are judging your brother or sister in the Lord.

John 7:24 (NKJV) Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Jesus gives us these instructions to judge righteously, not just by what things look like, or by what others have said alone but to judge righteously that is to look at things from God's perspective, giving the benefit of the doubt, giving grace testing what's been said by what's being done and waiting for the Spirit to reveal things through prayer and by the actions of others.

It was king Jehoshaphat that gave wise counsel to those he put in place as judges.

2 Chronicles 19:6 (NKJV) and said to the judges, "Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment.

When we open our mouths the purpose and intent should be love tempered in wisdom and grace, not judgement the problem with Eliphaz and the others was that they had already judged Job to be in sin, they had not given him the benefit of the doubt, or used the wisdom of God, and had not given grace. Now I want to make sure your not reading into what I'm saying Im not saying that we don't Judge blatant sin and require people to repent, I'm saying that when we can't see or identify that sin that we need to refrain from judging until it has been revealed. No one here is a mind reading and none of us has cornered the market on the Holy Spirit although some act like they do!

Verses 14-26 Windy Doctrine

Job 15:14-16 NKJV - "What is man, that he could be pure? And he who is born of a woman, that he could be righteous? 15 NKJV - If God puts no trust in His saints, And the heavens are not pure in His sight, 16 NKJV - How much less man, who is abominable and filthy, Who drinks iniquity like water!

What is man... Eliphaz brings back on Job what he said earlier, that he was pure and righteous in these things that he had done no specific sin or transgression against the Lord to bring this on and we because we have

the benefit if hind site know that Job was right, but this doctrine again pops up, this doctrine of total depravity, that a man can't be pure, and that he can't be righteous, it is true to a point that man in and of himself can't be pure or righteous but that doesn't mean that he is incapable of turning to God in faith and by His grace be made pure and righteous, we should note that even without receiving the promises that there have been men and woman who by faith were made pure and righteous.

Turn with me to...

Romans 4:3–6 (NKJV) 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

If God puts no trust in His saints... Notice also the assumption that Eliphaz makes, he assumes that God doesn't put his trust in his saints or holy ones, and looks at the heavens as impure, and so if God does that then how much worse does he look at man? It reminds me of a story of a boy who was really active and was pushing the patience of the Sunday school teacher, one Sunday while driving home from church the little boy ask is God watching me? Dad asked why do you ask? Did someone tell you God is watching you? The boy said my Sunday school teacher said God was watching me, is that true Dad? Is God really watching me? This wise father ask his son why did your teacher tell you that? He said because I was kinda acting up, is God really watching me dad? Now it's the wise father who realizes that the way he answers questions for his kids can shape the way they think of God. So this father said to his son yes son its true God is watching you, but He watching you because He loves you so much that He just can't take His eyes off of you.

The attitude of the Sunday school teacher is the attitude of Eliphaz and that attitude comes from the doctrine he believes and practices. Wrong doctrine and theology clouds the way we think and can lead us to wrong attitudes, and wrong assessments, and wrong judgment.

If God puts no trust in His saints... if it were true that God puts no trust in his saints and much less in man who is filthy, abominable and full of sin, then none of us could be shepherds of His church, none of us could be trusted to lead ministry, none of us could be leaders in the church, again wrong doctrine leads to wrong thinking.

Job 15:17-19 NKJV - "I will tell you, hear me; What I have seen I will declare, 18 NKJV - What wise men have told, Not hiding anything received from their fathers, 19 NKJV - To whom alone the land was given, And no alien passed among them:

I will tell you, hear me... Eliphaz tries to back up what he knows by saying that he received what he knows by other men more wise than himself saying that this wisdom was pure untainted because it came before any invaders with their idolatry came into the land. One thing Eliphaz overlooks is that although this may be wisdom untainted by idolatrous invaders it is still tainted because man is sinful and so we must test these things that even wise men say to see if they hold up before Scripture or for him is this true in light of what others have gone through? It's interesting to me that Eliphaz says in one moment that man is filthy, abominable and drinks iniquity like water but on the other man has all this untainted wisdom, but that what wrong doctrine does it teaches people how to double think not considering how all things work together, and gives you a slanted view of things. Notice what Eliphaz says next...

Job 15:20-24 NKJV - The wicked man writhes with pain all his days, And the number of years is hidden from the oppressor. 21 NKJV - Dreadful sounds are in his ears; In prosperity the destroyer comes upon

him. 22 NKJV - He does not believe that he will return from darkness, For a sword is waiting for him. 23 NKJV - He wanders about for bread, saying, 'Where is it?' He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand. 24 NKJV - Trouble and anguish make him afraid; They overpower him, like a king ready for battle.

The wicked man... So do you think he's directing this at Job? Job I know your in sin because just like your writhing in pain so are you, just like the wicked man hears dreadful things in his ears, so your hearing dreadful things in your sleep, just as the destroyer comes upon the wicked in their prosperity, so he has come and destroyed you when you were prosperous, the wicked don't believe they will be able to escape the darkness and are waiting for the painful doom of the sword, we know you feel the same way, the wicked wander and don't know when they will be able to eat either do you, the wicked knows that a day of darkness is coming their way and trouble and anguish makes them afraid and you have admitted these very things!

Job 15:25-26 NKJV - For he stretches out his hand against God, And acts defiantly against the Almighty, 26 NKJV - Running stubbornly against Him With his strong, embossed shield.

For he stretches out his hand... Because Eliphaz has never heard of anyone trying to make his case before God and believes that Job is in sin, he believes Job is acting defiantly and is running at God.

Verses 27-35 Windy Knowledge

Job 15:27-29 NKJV - "Though he has covered his face with his fatness, And made his waist heavy with fat, 28 NKJV - He dwells in desolate cities, In houses which no one inhabits, Which are destined to become ruins. 29 NKJV - He will not be rich, Nor will his wealth continue, Nor will his possessions overspread the earth.

Though he has covered his face... The description here says that people who are fat have money! Eliphaz says that even though the wicked man may be hiding behind his prosperity, he's still alone and that his riches will come to an end, and his possessions will be lost. The fact is that this is true for those who are wicked, wicked people may prosper for as long as they live on this earth but in the end they will lose it all and they will lose their souls as well.

Job 15:30-33 NKJV - He will not depart from darkness; The flame will dry out his branches, And by the breath of His mouth he will go away. 31 NKJV - Let him not trust in futile things, deceiving himself, For futility will be his reward. 32 NKJV - It will be accomplished before his time, And his branch will not be green. 33 NKJV - He will shake off his unripe grape like a vine, And cast off his blossom like an olive tree.

He will not depart... Notice Eliphaz continues his attack on Job saying that wicked people will not depart from darkness basically his life will die out, and will breathe his last, Job don't trust in empty things, quit fooling yourself, because your reward will be emptiness, and its going to happen sooner than you think and it will be violent.

Job 15:34-35 NKJV - For the company of hypocrites will be barren, And fire will consume the tents of bribery. 35 NKJV - They conceive trouble and bring forth futility; Their womb prepares deceit."

For the company of hypocrites... Eliphaz is saying don't you know that your hypocriticalness is the reason why you are completely without? Don't you understand Job you can't bribe your way out of this? Don't you understand that when you don't confess your sin your birthing trouble and emptiness and your fooling yourself. Again this may be true for wicked people but here Eliphaz has the application all wrong.

Application:

- 1. When we are falsely accused of sin sometimes its just better to say nothing!**
- 2. Before we judge someone of being in sin because of their circumstances we ought to give them the benefit of the doubt and pray for wisdom to share in their situation.**
- 3. Wrong doctrine will lead to wrong assumptions and lead to wrong conclusions that lead to false accusations.**