

## **Faith In The Storm part 24**

**Job 34:1-37**

**The Title Of The Message: “God’s Justice”**

**The Key Word: Justice**

**The Breakdown:**

**Chapter 34 God Is Just**

**Chapter 35 God Is Righteous**

**Chapters 36-37 God Is Mighty**

**Chapter 34 God Is Just**

**Job 34:1-3** NKJV - Elihu further answered and said: 2 NKJV - "Hear my words, you wise men; Give ear to me, you who have knowledge. 3 NKJV - For the ear tests words As the palate tastes food.

**Elihu further answered and said...** Elihu continues to answer questions that were never asked two weeks ago the young man Elihu dropped in on the conversation because he was angry that Job was justifying himself rather than justifying God and because Job’s friends made accusations without any proof, and he went on for three chapters and isn’t done yet, still Elihu is interesting in that he is like Melchizedek who just shows up out of nowhere and then disappears in the same way.

**Hear my words...** We can see that Elihu is wordy kind of guy, in that he says, Give ear to me, you who have knowledge. For the ear tests words As the palate tastes food. Two weeks ago he spent a whole chapter talking about how he would drop wisdom on all of the old guys.

**Job 34:4-9 NKJV** - Let us choose justice for ourselves; Let us know among ourselves what is good. 5 NKJV - "For Job has said, 'I am righteous, But God has taken away my justice; 6 NKJV - Should I lie concerning my right? My wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.' 7 NKJV - What man is like Job, Who drinks scorn like water, 8 NKJV - Who goes in company with the workers of iniquity, And walks with wicked men? 9 NKJV - For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing That he should delight in God.'

**Let us choose justice for ourselves...** He says lets choose justice and he says lets make sure we know what is good, but then he skews the truth by mixing statements Job has made, Job never claimed to be without iniquity, he never hung out with workers of iniquity or lived with wicked men as far as living like them, and he never said that there is no gain in delighting in God.

**Job 34:10-15 NKJV** - "Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding: Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to commit iniquity. 11 NKJV - For He repays man according to his work, And makes man to find a reward according to his way. 12 NKJV - Surely God will never do wickedly, Nor will the Almighty pervert justice. 13 NKJV - Who gave Him charge over the earth? Or who appointed Him over the whole world? 14 NKJV - If He should set His heart on it, If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, 15 NKJV - All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.

**Therefore listen to me...** Elihu is right in saying that God doesn't do wrong but he's wrong in the sense that in making an absolute that God will repay men according to his work, what Elihu is speaking of is the principal of reaping and sowing the problem is that he's taken it to a place of absolutes if you do wrong God's gonna get you, if you do right God will reward you, but the principle of reaping and sowing is not an

absolute because its putting God in a must do situation, there's no room for grace, forgiveness or God's wisdom.

**Micah 6:8 (NKJV) He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?**

**Job 34:16-28 NKJV** - "If you have understanding, hear this; Listen to the sound of my words: 17 NKJV - Should one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn Him who is most just? 18 NKJV - Is it fitting to say to a king, 'You are worthless,' And to nobles, 'You are wicked'? 19 NKJV - Yet He is not partial to princes, Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; For they are all the work of His hands. 20 NKJV - In a moment they die, in the middle of the night; The people are shaken and pass away; The mighty are taken away without a hand. 21 NKJV - "For His eyes are on the ways of man, And He sees all his steps. 22 NKJV - There is no darkness nor shadow of death Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. 23 NKJV - For He need not further consider a man, That he should go before God in judgment. 24 NKJV - He breaks in pieces mighty men without inquiry, And sets others in their place. 25 NKJV - Therefore He knows their works; He overthrows them in the night, And they are crushed. 26 NKJV - He strikes them as wicked men In the open sight of others, 27 NKJV - Because they turned back from Him, And would not consider any of His ways, 28 NKJV - So that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him; For He hears the cry of the afflicted.

**If you have understanding...** Elihu's assessment of Job's situation hasn't taken into account his suffering, Elihu assumes that Job is speaking against God something that people just don't do even to sovereign kings and princes, but what Elihu is not understanding is that Job makes these cries known to the Lord not because he is railing against the Lord but because he loves and respects the Lord, and knows the power of the Lord he's just wants to know what he's done against the Lord, so that he can make it right.

**There is no darkness nor shadow of death...** Everything that Elihu explains is right, its almost the same thing that the other three have been saying only with less talking, but the problem is that it doesn't give an explanation for Job's suffering, this has been the problem from the start.

**Job 34:29-37 NKJV** - When He gives quietness, who then can make trouble? And when He hides His face, who then can see Him, Whether it is against a nation or a man alone?— 30 NKJV - That the hypocrite should not reign, Lest the people be ensnared. 31 NKJV - "For has anyone said to God, 'I have borne chastening; I will offend no more; 32 NKJV - Teach me what I do not see; If I have done iniquity, I will do no more'? 33 NKJV - Should He repay it according to your terms, Just because you disavow it? You must choose, and not I; Therefore speak what you know. 34 NKJV - "Men of understanding say to me, Wise men who listen to me: 35 NKJV - 'Job speaks without knowledge, His words are without wisdom.' 36 NKJV - Oh, that Job were tried to the utmost, Because his answers are like those of wicked men! 37 NKJV - For he adds rebellion to his sin; He claps his hands among us, And multiplies his words against God."

**When He gives quietness...** Elihu does make a good point, when God gives quietness and hides his face, and that hypocrites should not rule because they people tend to get caught up. In the quietness God gives, when we can't seem to see God in things, and when we see the hypocrite leading what do we do? It's in these times we need to see am I being disciplined, to ask the Lord what am I not seeing reveal it to me Lord, and then repent.

**Should He repay it...** Although Elihu makes some bad assumptions, he does hit the nail on the head here in that he says should God do things according to the way we think it should be done, just because we don't think it's right? Unfortunately for Elihu his doctrine forces him to charge Job with sin, and so he's in the same boat as the other miserable comforters.

## Chapter 35 God Is Righteous

**Job 35:1-4 NKJV** - Moreover Elihu answered and said: 2 NKJV - "Do you think this is right? Do you say, 'My righteousness is more than God's'? 3 NKJV - For you say, 'What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than if I had sinned? 4 NKJV - "I will answer you, And your companions with you.

**Moreover Elihu answered...** in Elihu's heart he believes that Job is self righteous and so he makes the point, but in the process he again puts words in Job's mouth things he never said but that Elihu misinterpreted or read into.

**Job 35:5-16 NKJV** - Look to the heavens and see; And behold the clouds--They are higher than you. 6 NKJV - If you sin, what do you accomplish against Him? Or, if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to Him? 7 NKJV - If you are righteous, what do you give Him? Or what does He receive from your hand? 8 NKJV - Your wickedness affects a man such as you, And your righteousness a son of man. 9 NKJV - "Because of the multitude of oppressions they cry out; They cry out for help because of the arm of the mighty. 10 NKJV - But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker, Who gives songs in the night, 11 NKJV - Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, And makes us wiser than the birds of heaven?' 12 NKJV - There they cry out, but He does not answer, Because of the pride of evil men. 13 NKJV - Surely God will not listen to empty talk, Nor will the Almighty regard it. 14 NKJV - Although you say you do not see Him, Yet justice is before Him, and you must wait for Him. 15 NKJV - And now, because He has not punished in His anger, Nor taken much notice of folly, 16 NKJV - Therefore Job opens his mouth in vain; He multiplies words without knowledge."

**Look to the heavens and see...** Throughout the rest of this chapter we see that Elihu's concept of God is just weird, he ask his listeners to look at the clouds which in his mind was proof of how impossible it is to get

to God, it was something that kept God from us, he goes on to say if we sin what do we accomplish against God, and if we transgress what do we do to Him, and if we are righteous what do we actually give to God, I look at this and think foolish young man, this one place we can say that youthfulness is wasted on the young! In his quest to be wise, it didn't occur to him that our sin does affect God and will be the reason He will come to this earth to suffer and die on the cross taking upon himself all of our sin and providing forgiveness to all who would believe in Him, and when we live in righteousness then we bring glory to God, he accuses Job of opening up his mouth in vain, multiplying his words without knowledge but Elihu needs to look in a mirror.

### **Chapters 36-37 God Is Mighty**

Job 36:1 NKJV - Elihu also proceeded and said: 2 NKJV - "Bear with me a little, and I will show you That there are yet words to speak on God's behalf. 3 NKJV - I will fetch my knowledge from afar; I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker. 4 NKJV - For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

**Elihu also proceeded...** I don't know if Elihu was trying to joke around or if he's like those pastors who tell the congregation in conclusion or finally and then go on for another hour with their message, because he says bear with me a little and will go on and on and on!

**Ecclesiastes 5:3 (NKJV) For a dream comes through much activity,  
And a fool's voice is known by his many words.**

**Proverbs 17:27 (NKJV) He who has knowledge spares his words,  
And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.**

**Proverbs 17:28 (NKJV) Even a fool is counted wise when he holds  
his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.**

**To speak on God's behalf...** Elihu makes himself out to be a messenger from God and says there are more things that he just as to share.

**Job 36:5-12** NKJV - "Behold, God is mighty, but despises no one; He is mighty in strength of understanding. 6 NKJV - He does not preserve the life of the wicked, But gives justice to the oppressed. 7 NKJV - He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; But they are on the throne with kings, For He has seated them forever, And they are exalted. 8 NKJV - And if they are bound in fetters, Held in the cords of affliction, 9 NKJV - Then He tells them their work and their transgressions--That they have acted defiantly. 10 NKJV - He also opens their ear to instruction, And commands that they turn from iniquity. 11 NKJV - If they obey and serve Him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasures. 12 NKJV - But if they do not obey, They shall perish by the sword, And they shall die without knowledge.

**Behold, God is mighty...** The argument that Elihu brings out what Job was feeling in his suffering he felt like God was against him and despised him but in actuality because God is mighty he despises none because He has an understanding of us and how we react, He see the righteous and exalts them, and secures them, if they are bound in suffering He frees them, He's willing to and does show us through His word or through circumstances our transgressions and our works, He's willing to help us hear and understand His instructions. But here is where Elihu goes wrong by pointing out things in Job's life that were missing in order to prove that Job was in sin, by saying if they obey and serve Him then He will let them live in prosperity and have years of pleasure.

**Job 36:13-21** NKJV - "But the hypocrites in heart store up wrath; They do not cry for help when He binds them. 14 NKJV - They die in youth, And their life ends among the perverted persons. 15 NKJV - He delivers the poor in their affliction, And opens their ears in oppression. 16 NKJV - "Indeed He would have brought you out of dire distress, Into a broad place where there is no restraint; And what is set on your table would be

full of richness. 17 NKJV - But you are filled with the judgment due the wicked; Judgment and justice take hold of you. 18 NKJV - Because there is wrath, beware lest He take you away with one blow; For a large ransom would not help you avoid it. 19 NKJV - Will your riches, Or all the mighty forces, Keep you from distress? 20 NKJV - Do not desire the night, When people are cut off in their place. 21 NKJV - Take heed, do not turn to iniquity, For you have chosen this rather than affliction.

**But the hypocrites...** Elihu believed that Job was a hypocrite because he didn't confess his sin, and basically tells Job that his future is bleak your going to die with the perverted people!

**He delivers the poor...** Elihu goes on common man! God in His might knows how to deliver the poor in their affliction, and causes them to hear Him in their oppression, Job if you would just repent He would bring you out of your dire distress and bless you, but no because you're wicked judgment and justice have finally caught up with you, but you better hurry up and confess because in His with God can take you out with one smack, there's no amount of money that can buy you out of this and no army can deliver you from this, you better listen Job don't trust in iniquity, after all this is all your fault you made these choices. Elihu couldn't be more wrong. I'm not saying that Job was entirely right in some of the things that he said things that he will definitely have to answer for before the Lord, things that he will be all to willing to repent of but what Elihu assumes here is wrong, if Job were to give in then he would have brought shame on the Lord and we should never do that just so we can please people in their wrong assumptions.

**Job 36:22-33** NKJV - "Behold, God is exalted by His power; Who teaches like Him? 23 NKJV - Who has assigned Him His way, Or who has said, 'You have done wrong'? 24 NKJV - "Remember to magnify His work, Of which men have sung. 25 NKJV - Everyone has seen it; Man looks on it from afar. 26 NKJV - "Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; Nor can the number of His years be discovered. 27 NKJV - For He draws up drops of water, Which distill as rain from the



mist, 28 NKJV - Which the clouds drop down And pour abundantly on man. 29 NKJV - Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, The thunder from His canopy? 30 NKJV - Look, He scatters His light upon it, And covers the depths of the sea. 31 NKJV - For by these He judges the peoples; He gives food in abundance. 32 NKJV - He covers His hands with lightning, And commands it to strike. 33 NKJV - His thunder declares it, The cattle also, concerning the rising storm.

**Behold, God is exalted...** Verse 22 marks a change of attitude for Elihu as he begins to see a storm from far away, he begins to see the Lord in it and allows himself to be led by the spirit in what he says.

**Job 37:1-7 NKJV** - "At this also my heart trembles, And leaps from its place. 2 NKJV - Hear attentively the thunder of His voice, And the rumbling that comes from His mouth. 3 NKJV - He sends it forth under the whole heaven, His lightning to the ends of the earth. 4 NKJV - After it a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice, And He does not restrain them when His voice is heard. 5 NKJV - God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend. 6 NKJV - For He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth'; Likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength. 7 NKJV - He seals the hand of every man, That all men may know His work.

**At this also my heart trembles...** I would have to say that it is now that Elihu is speaking not just of the Lord but for the Lord.

**Job 37:8-13 NKJV** - The beasts go into dens, And remain in their lairs. 9 NKJV - From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, And cold from the scattering winds of the north. 10 NKJV - By the breath of God ice is given, And the broad waters are frozen. 11 NKJV - Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds. 12 NKJV - And they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, That they may do whatever He commands them On the face of the whole earth. 13 NKJV - He causes it to come, Whether for correction, Or for His land, Or for mercy.

## **The beasts go into dens...**

**Job 37:14-22 NKJV** - "Listen to this, O Job; Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God. 15 NKJV - Do you know when God dispatches them, And causes the light of His cloud to shine? 16 NKJV - Do you know how the clouds are balanced, Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge? 17 NKJV - Why are your garments hot, When He quiets the earth by the south wind? 18 NKJV - With Him, have you spread out the skies, Strong as a cast metal mirror? 19 NKJV - "Teach us what we should say to Him, For we can prepare nothing because of the darkness. 20 NKJV - Should He be told that I wish to speak? If a man were to speak, surely he would be swallowed up. 21 NKJV - Even now men cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies, When the wind has passed and cleared them. 22 NKJV - He comes from the north as golden splendor; With God is awesome majesty. 23 NKJV - As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, In judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress. 24 NKJV - Therefore men fear Him; He shows no partiality to any who are wise of heart."

## **Listen to this...**

## **Teach us what we should say to Him...**