

Faith In The Storm part 21

Job 27:1-28:28

The Title Of The Message: “Integrity & Wisdom”

The Key Word: Integrity

The Thought: Integrity separates us from the rest of the world, from those who are unbelieving or live compromised lives.

The Breakdown:

Verses 1-10 Job’s Integrity

Verses 11-23 Job’s Insight

Chapter 28:1-11 Job’s Knowledge

Verses 12-28 Job’s Wisdom

Verses 1-10 Job’s Integrity

Job 27:1-4 NKJV - Moreover Job continued his discourse, and said: 2 NKJV - "As God lives, who has taken away my justice, And the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, 3 NKJV - As long as my breath is in me, And the breath of God in my nostrils, 4 NKJV - My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.

Moreover Job continued... Last week Job shut the mouths of his comforters, pointing out that their theology had been power less to comfort those who were suffering or strengthen those who were weak, and then proceeded to speak of God’s greatness and glory, and that what he shared were just the edges of who God is, so now he continues and goes back to whom he believes is the one who is responsible for his

situation, it doesn't occur to Job that this was done by a spiritual enemy and still he's right because in the end it was God who gave permission to Satan to do what he wanted to do, at the same time it wasn't God who did this, He allowed it but He didn't do it.

As long as my breath is in me... Notice that even though Job feels this way he says as long as he has breath in him and as long as God gives him breath, he will not speak wickedly against the Lord and he will not lie about his situation.

Job 27:5-6 NKJV - Far be it from me That I should say you are right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. 6 NKJV - My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.

Far be it from me... Job says I'm not about to say your right, when you have been so wrong! I will hold on to my integrity and righteousness until I die. The pressure of temptation to let go of our integrity can be tremendous, sometimes people will reason if I just agree with them I can get rid of them, I can quit arguing with them, things can get back to normal, but that's not true, we should never admit to wrong doing when its not true, there was a pastor that made a fatal mistake instead of holding on to his integrity he thought he could get rid of the drama and accusations of lying and so he said okay I'm lying, this made it easy for the bitter leadership to get rid of him, he would admit to other pastors that it wasn't true that he lied, he just said he did hoping that the problems would go away, but it just made it worse, without realizing he now made it true, because he lied about lying and he would be ejected from the church.

And will not let it go... When we refuse to let go of our integrity and hold on to righteousness, even when others doubt and speak lies our hearts will not condemn us. Better to have a clean conscience than to please those who speak bitterness and false accusations.

Job 27:7-10 NKJV - "May my enemy be like the wicked, And he who rises up against me like the unrighteous. 8 NKJV - For what is the hope of the hypocrite, Though he may gain much, If God takes away his life? 9 NKJV - Will God hear his cry When trouble comes upon him? 10 NKJV - Will he delight himself in the Almighty? Will he always call on God?"

May my enemy be like the wicked... Job pronounces a curse on his enemies, notice that he flips what his friends had said, they accused him of being wicked, but he says may my enemies be like the wicked, like the very people you have accused me of being, and those who rise up against me may they be like the unrighteous. Who were Job's enemies? Well it could be the people that had gathered together listening to the arguments going back and forth those who were agreeing with Job's friends.

For what is the hope... Job points out the hopelessness of the hypocrite, he may gain much but what good is it if God takes away his life, we see this same principle in...

Matthew 16:26 (NKJV) For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Luke 9:25 (NKJV) For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

We see this fleshed out in... **Luke 12:16–20 (NKJV)** 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be

required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

Will God hear his cry... Job ask some critical questions, questions that they and we should pay attention to, first is will God hear the hypocrites cry when he gets himself in trouble? I don't believe so, unless that cry is a cry of repentance and for salvation. Job also ask will that man delight himself in the almighty? No people who are hypocrites do not delight themselves in the Lord, and don't want to, finally Job ask will he always call on God of course the answer is no, I do find it interesting that people who don't know the Lord or live their lives like they don't believe in Him when they are in trouble try to call on Him for help, I remember doing that before I was a believer, for some its truly is because they are searching and don't know but for others its really just so they can get out of trouble. I look at these questions and look at Job and think about the contrast between the hypocrite and him, and he is the opposite of of what they have accused him of being.

Verses 11-23 Job's Insight

Job 27:11-12 NKJV - "I will teach you about the hand of God; What is with the Almighty I will not conceal. 12 NKJV - Surely all of you have seen it; Why then do you behave with complete nonsense?"

I will teach you... Now Job goes into a bible study about God, and he says I'm going to teach you about the Lord and I'm not going to hide anything, and I know for sure that you have been witness to but I don't know why you are behaving with complete nonsense! This sentence **“you behave with complete nonsense”** has **the idea of “becoming vain, making vain or to act emptyly”**

Job 27:13-18 NKJV - "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, And the heritage of oppressors, received from the Almighty: 14 NKJV - If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword; And his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread. 15 NKJV - Those who survive him shall be buried in death, And their widows shall not weep, 16 NKJV - Though he

heaps up silver like dust, And piles up clothing like clay— 17 NKJV - He may pile it up, but the just will wear it, And the innocent will divide the silver. 18 NKJV - He builds his house like a moth, Like a booth which a watchman makes.

This is the portion of a wicked man... Job's friends have forgotten that he also has insight to the future of the wicked, that their kids are born for the sword, and they won't be satisfied with bread, and those who survive are going to die, and their widows won't weep for them. We might think man that's cold these guys got no chance! Even their kids have no chance! We should remember that these are generally speaking true, not always but generally speaking these things are true because wicked people train their children to be just as or more wicked than they are, habits and behavior is learned through the actions of parents, and so they grow up to follow in their parents footsteps, but again that is generally true there is always the exception, that one who gets saved and seeks to draw their families to the Lord, like most families some will believe and others will not.

Though he heaps up silver... The wicked may seem to prosper, piling up silver and clothing, it doesn't benefit them, the just will wear that clothing and the innocent will divide the silver, he may build his house but they are temporary like the cocoon of the moth or the booth of a watchman.

Job 27:19-23 NKJV - The rich man will lie down, But not be gathered up; He opens his eyes, And he is no more. 20 NKJV - Terrors overtake him like a flood; A tempest steals him away in the night. 21 NKJV - The east wind carries him away, and he is gone; It sweeps him out of his place. 22 NKJV - It hurls against him and does not spare; He flees desperately from its power. 23 NKJV - Men shall clap their hands at him, And shall hiss him out of his place.

The rich man will lie down... why is the rich man talked about like this? Because Job knows that they rely on their riches and not God as a matter of fact their riches are their god, but what they don't understand is

how weak those riches are to save them and give them life, notice they wake up and find that they are no more, terrors overtake him like a flood, a tempest steals him away, he swept away by the east wind, and it hurls against him, he runs from its power, could this be a description of some of the torment unbelievers will experience in the lake of fire? Maybe...

Luke 18:24 (NKJV) And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

Chapter 28:1-11 Job's Knowledge

Job 28:1-4 NKJV - "Surely there is a mine for silver, And a place where gold is refined. 2 NKJV - Iron is taken from the earth, And copper is smelted from ore. 3 NKJV - Man puts an end to darkness, And searches every recess For ore in the darkness and the shadow of death. 4 NKJV - He breaks open a shaft away from people; In places forgotten by feet They hang far away from men; They swing to and fro.

Surely there is a mine... again Job points out what man seeks after, often times he doesn't spend his time seeking after God but after precious metals.

Job 28:5-11 NKJV - As for the earth, from it comes bread, But underneath it is turned up as by fire; 6 NKJV - Its stones are the source of sapphires, And it contains gold dust. 7 NKJV - That path no bird knows, Nor has the falcon's eye seen it. 8 NKJV - The proud lions have not trodden it, Nor has the fierce lion passed over it. 9 NKJV - He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the roots. 10 NKJV - He cuts out channels in the rocks, And his eye sees every precious thing. 11 NKJV - He dams up the streams from trickling; What is hidden he brings forth to light.

As for the earth... Man looks for things to eat but not the Lord, he works hard at harvesting not just food but riches from deep in the earth, where falcons haven't seen or fierce lions walk in, but man in his greed has gone deeper and looked farther. If only we would work as hard at gaining the treasures of the Lord how much richer we would be.

Luke 12:15 (NKJV) And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Verses 12-28 Job's Wisdom

Job 28:12-19 NKJV - "But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? 13 NKJV - Man does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living. 14 NKJV - The deep says, 'It is not in me'; And the sea says, 'It is not with me.' 15 NKJV - It cannot be purchased for gold, Nor can silver be weighed for its price. 16 NKJV - It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx or sapphire. 17 NKJV - Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. 18 NKJV - No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, For the price of wisdom is above rubies. 19 NKJV - The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold.

But where can wisdom be found?... Job pointed out the things that man searches out because of the lust of his heart, he only seeks the things that will benefit his flesh, but Job says that foolishness and the real thing we ought to pursue is wisdom, we chase after things we think are valuable but we don't know the real value of wisdom, wisdom in the end outweighs all the precious metals and stones we can lay our hands on, wisdom points us to the Lord but material riches point us away from the Lord. Wisdom is invaluable.

Job 28:20-27 NKJV - "From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? 21 NKJV - It is hidden from the

eyes of all living, And concealed from the birds of the air. 22 NKJV - Destruction and Death say, 'We have heard a report about it with our ears.' 23 NKJV - God understands its way, And He knows its place. 24 NKJV - For He looks to the ends of the earth, And sees under the whole heavens, 25 NKJV - To establish a weight for the wind, And apportion the waters by measure. 26 NKJV - When He made a law for the rain, And a path for the thunderbolt, 27 NKJV - Then He saw wisdom and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.

From where then does wisdom come?... Job ask but where does wisdom come from and where can we find it? Its concealed from all living things even death and destruction can only say they have heard about it, so who can we go to? Who knows about it? Job says God does, by it God has established the weight of the wind, he has allotted the waters by measure, He has made the law for rain, and given a path for the lightning. When Job says God saw wisdom and declared it; prepared it, indeed he searched it out, he's saying wisdom is with God, Job knew the answers to is own question but he wanted them and us to know where we go to get wisdom, and where wisdom is and so Job closes chapter 28 with wisdom as he says what what wisdom is...

Job 28:28 NKJV - And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.'

And to man He said... it is wise to fear the Lord, because salvation comes from the Lord, and when we stay away from and shun evil it shows we have good understanding. It doesn't say to think about departing from evil but to depart from evil.

1 John 1:5–6 (NKJV) 5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

John 8:12 (NKJV) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Application:

- 1. No matter what happens, no matter what anyone thinks or says, we must hold on to our integrity and righteousness.**
- 2. We must pursue the Lord more than pursuing the things of life.**
- 3. Do you know the value of wisdom? We can only see it when we fear the Lord.**