

The Counsel of Elihu

Job 32-37

Introducing Elihu

Job 32

- Elihu, son of Barakel the Buzite was a young man who waited his turn to speak to Job. He waited through two rounds of dialogues between Job and his three friends.
- Elihu was not mentioned at the end of the book when Job's three friends are told to go to Job and have him make sacrifices for their sin.
- Elihu does not give perfect counsel, but on the whole he gives better counsel. At least we can say that his counsel was better since he is not singled out as one giving bad advice as were Job's three friends.

The Sin of Flattery

Job 32:21-22

Definition of Flattery

excessive and insincere praise, esp. that given to further one's own interests : *his healthy distrust of courtiers' flattery*
(Apple Dictionary)

Sin of Flattery

- Flattery is the telling of a something false in order to gain the approval of someone else. *1 Thessalonians 2:5, Proverbs 26:28*
- That which honors our Lord is truth telling. Any argument that we use to justify a false statement is dishonoring to our Lord. *Ephesians 4:25*

Elihu's Arguments

Justifying God

- Elihu's basic argument is that whatever may be said about why something is happening we can never come to the conclusion that our God is doing anything that is wrong. *Job 34:10-12*
- It is the holiness of God that does seem to be at the core of the issue. If our God is holy then he cannot do anything wrong. *Isaiah 6:1-7*

Elihu's Mistake

- Elihu still makes the same mistake as Job's three friends when he entertains the idea that Job's suffering is caused by his sin. *Job 33:8-13, Job 36:2-21*
- Elihu falsely accuses Job of being corrupted by bad company. *Job 34:7-9, Job 33:1-13*

Fatherly Discipline

- Elihu correctly understand that God does use discipline to keep folks from going into sin. *Job 33:12-22*
- It is only in the New Covenant era that we can clearly see the love motivated purpose behind the Father's discipline of his children. *Hebrews 12:1-13*

Grasping the Majesty of God

Job 36:22-37:24

- When all is said and done we are to be caught up in the wonder of our God.
- If we are perplexed by any of our circumstances we must not allow our limited perspective on life to undermine the majesty of our God. *Romans 11:33-36*

Closing Thought

Whatever our God does is right!