



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Job Sermon Series
Supports Session 4: Wisdom Gained
Sermon Title: "Wisdom's Origin Story"
Passage: Job 28:12-28

Connection to Job 28

Job was a man of considerable wealth before he was struck by Satan. Job knew what it was like to have plenty in all circumstances and contexts. Therefore, when Job concludes that true wisdom is found in godliness and not in possessions, we can be confident Job is telling the truth.

Introduction/Opening

Many superhero films include some type of explanation for how that person became that superhero. These origin stories give us a better understanding of the present moment and provide clues about the antagonists faced by the superhero. It also helps us understand some of the why behind the story and actions we are seeing on the screen.

As Job works through the events of his life, he thinks over the origins of wisdom, where it can be found, and from whom it comes. These questions and their answers are important as believers consider Christ as their Source of wisdom.

Outline

I. Know where wisdom is not found (vv. 12-14).

A part of knowing what is real and true is knowing what is not real or true. For example, those who work with counterfeit money are not trained with fake dollar bills, but instead they are trained to know the details of real dollar bills in order to spot fakes. Since Job's relationship with God was incredibly close, Job was able to know where true wisdom is found and where it is not found.

II. Nothing compares to God's wisdom (vv. 15-19).

Job refused to put a monetary value on wisdom because it is not "found in the land of the living" (v. 13). A statement such as this can initially seem strange because when something is said to have value it is often described in monetary terms. However, Job said that God's wisdom is outside of humanity's ability to value, and nothing can be exchanged for it (v. 15). God's wisdom is free for all who seek it (Jas. 1:5). This should be a refreshing realization for believers that God's gift of wisdom is not exclusively for those with the monetary means.

Not only does the wisdom of God exceed and escape a monetary value, but also nothing can compare with the wisdom of God. In other words, God’s wisdom is in a class by itself. In verses 17 and 19, Job stated there is no object against which the wisdom of God can be compared. Believers should take this truth to heart. There is nothing that compares to the wisdom of God or the riches of mercy and grace found in Christ (Eph. 1:7-8).

Objects that have earthly monetary value are proven useless in providing answers for the dilemma Job faced. This passage is not necessarily a critique of the valuable objects themselves but rather the importance placed on them. This section of Scripture confronts believers about things which people believe make them secure, powerful, and even wise. Believers should understand the role and function of valuable objects and money as well as their inability to provide true wisdom or salvation.

III. Not Worth Mentioning (v. 18)

Job mentions two precious rocks that “are not worth mentioning.” Precious stones such as gold and silver (v. 15) are identified, but Job contends that coral and quartz “are not worth mentioning” (v. 18). What things do believers chase as valuable that ultimately are not worth pursuing compared to the wisdom found in Christ? What objects, titles, relationships, or validations in your own life do you believe to be incredibly valuable, but upon reevaluation are “not worth mentioning” anymore? How is God calling you to reprioritize your life in terms of what is truly important and valuable?

Conclusion

Knowing what is not important frees believers to know what has true value. Job, being a very wealthy man, knew what true value was and what it could and could not buy. He made it clear that the wisdom of God was impossible to put an earthly price tag on. Job affirmed that nothing compares to the wisdom of God and that there are things not even worth mentioning in the same breath as His wisdom. What type of wisdom do you value as most important? Who are you pursuing to obtain wisdom? True wisdom—the only wisdom that is of eternal value—is found only in Christ Jesus alone.

Stephen Keene is a native of Paducah, KY. He currently lives in Shelbyville, TN, serving as pastor of Southside Baptist Church since 2018. He has served churches in a variety of roles such as student pastor, discipleship pastor, associate pastor, and senior pastor. He and his wife, Lorie, have been married since November 2007. They have two children, Elijah and Emma. He received his Bachelor of Science in Theology from Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, KY and both his Master of Arts and Doctorate of Education Ministry degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY.

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