



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Job Sermon Series
Supports Session 5: Justice Sought
Sermon Title: "Be Careful" (Job 36:8-23)

Connection to Job 36

Job's friend, Elihu, emphasized how God uses His judgment to discipline believers and bring them to repentance. This passage reveals the error of placing one's faith and trust in things as well as the unfortunate consequences of continuing in sin and rebellion toward God.

Introduction/Opening

When Navy SEALs train for the stress of combat, they do so by being stretched physically, mentally, and emotionally. Regardless of what is going on around them, SEALs must have their minds and hearts in the right place or they run the risk of failure in accomplishing their mission.

Elihu encouraged Job to remember God's mercy and warned him of the seductive nature of allowing money or anything external to distract Job from living a focused life submitted to God.

Outline

- I. Remind yourself of God's mercies (vv. 16-17).
Elihu encouraged Job to remember the situation from which God has rescued him and of the blessings he had in God. When believers forget the mercy we have in Christ, we can be harsh and resentful with other's failings. Believers must allow God to be the ultimate Judge and focus our hearts on the mercy and grace we have experienced in Christ if we are to avoid harboring anger and resentment.
- II. Watch your heart (vv. 18-21).
The words "lure" and "lead" in verse 18 reveal the consistent temptation to take one's focus off Christ and place it elsewhere. Remaining focused on Christ does not occur naturally. Keeping ourselves accountable takes intentional effort and reliance on the Holy Spirit. We must keep a consistent watch over our hearts to avoid being lured and led astray.

The desire to control situations either through personal effort or money can be a powerful distraction from complete reliance on Christ alone. Believers fail to keep a close watch on their hearts when we live as if personal effort were a genuine substitute for movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Keeping a close watch over one's heart requires that we do not trust in what cannot truly save.

Once we fail to watch over our hearts and turn inward toward the self, then it is not long until we descend into iniquity. Elihu believed this was why Job was in the situation in which he found himself. Regardless of whether Elihu's interpretation of Job's situation was completely accurate from God's perspective, it is beneficial for believers to understand that losing our attention from Christ may bring about consequences which otherwise might have been avoided had we kept a closer watch over our hearts.

III. Allow God to instruct you (vv. 22-23).

God's power is essential in Him being the most superior Teacher. God's power reveals that He not only knows everything about the person being taught and their unique situation, but that God also knows how to tailor the methods and circumstances which work best for leading an individual to repentance.

We must allow God to instruct us instead of resisting His leadership. Everything God does is perfect, including how He uses the events in our lives to lead us to repentance and greater sanctification. If believers are to have a clean heart before God, we must allow God to instruct us.

Conclusion

Remaining faithful to Christ is of the utmost importance. In those moments of stress and distraction, believers must remain faithful to remember God's mercies when we are tempted to concentrate on another's faults (vv. 16-17). Elihu reminds us that believers must "be careful" (vv. 18, 21) to keep a close watch over our hearts, refusing to allow iniquity or the lure of money to lead us astray and allow God, the powerful master Teacher, to instruct us (vv. 22-23). Are you making room for the Holy Spirit to adjust and form your attitudes, emotions, and heart so that you can remain submitted to Christ?

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