

OVERCOMING CONDESCENDING ATTITUDES

Text: Job 12:1-25

Key Word: Condescending

Key Thought: How Should We Respond to Those Who Spue Forth Condescending Words?

One of the things I tend to despise is a “**know-it-all.**” I find it hard to accept the words that spew out of their mouths. Being a logical thinker, things have got to line up with the years I’ve studied and taught from God’s Word. I realize it makes me question many comments and vast array of conclusions that others tend to believe. I often clash especially when they use condescending words in an attempt to belittle me.

I also understand that their important life’s decisions have been based upon their studies and their life’s experiences. **Those whom they credit as being wise, I tend to believe as manipulators with the talking points.** This became much more apparent to me in the last three years as I’ve dissected the conclusions of “**the experts**” in many fields of study. There is no doubt in my mind that a vast number of people, including myself at one point, accepted the misleading data that removed my freedom and brought great distress to the people I love.

As a pastor, I am called to lead and feed this flock of sheep, that we call Fountaingate, who have trusted me to do what was right. I take this responsibility very seriously. I’ve watched and read a web of lies that were used to control all of us and are being exposed almost on a daily basis with little consequences to those who had led our world into a widespread crisis in many forms. Those who are attempting to backpedal their deceptive words and actions are just making matters worse. I have felt the degrading affects of being accused of being a **conspiracy theorist.** **That is why I appreciate that God chose to include the Book of Job in the canon of Scripture.** This chapter shows how to overcome condescending attitudes. It gives me courage as well as direction to “*fight the good fight of faith.*”

“Of course, this matters greatly because of the effect that education on the college campus and communication through formal textbooks and scholarly essays – which, too often, **take the form of indoctrination and brainwashing** – have the ideas that saturate and engulf not just students but the **culture and society, and manifest themselves in American streets, corporation boardrooms, politics, and newsrooms.**”

Mark R. Levin
“*American Marxism*”
pp. 25-26

I. DEFENDING FORTH THOSE IN POVERTY (Job 12:1-4)
II. DISTINGUISHING FROM THOSE WHO PROSPER (Job 12:5-6)
III. DISPLAYING FAIRLY GOD'S POWER (Job 12:13-25)

I. DEFENDING FORTH THOSE IN POVERTY (Job 12:1-4)

Then Job replied:

2. *"Doubtless you are the only people who matter, and wisdom will die with you!*

3. *But I have a mind as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Who does not know all these things?*

4. *"I have become a laughingstock to my friends, though I called on God and he answered — a mere laughingstock, though righteous and blameless!"*

Job 12:1-4

Many of the elites of our world have an attitude of disgust to those who are less fortunate. Hillary Clinton once described her opponents as **"a basketful of deplorables"** even though she sat on the board of directors for Walmart for six years (1986-1992) receiving \$1,800/meeting.

The CBC commissioned a pole of 4500 people in their series titled **"On Guard for Me"** that found nearly 80 per cent of Canadians either strongly or somewhat agree with the statement: **"My country is divided between ordinary people and elites."** One of our previous Prime Ministers, Jean Chrétien, was portrayed as being **"the little guy from Shawinigan"** even though he had amassed great wealth and did little to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich.

"People that look down on the common folk, the people that think they're smarter than other people . . . they just think they're better, they're smarter, and they can tell the common folk how to live their lives," he said. "And they drink their little bottle or glass of champagne with their pinky up in the air. That's what an elite is."

"Elitism has nothing to do with money," Ford said. "Half of them don't have two pennies to rub together. They think they're something that they aren't."

Premier Doug Ford's description of an elite person
CBC Article on July 1, 2019

I'm grateful that Job addressed the sarcasm of his three friends. How did they refer to him when he was rich and famous? I can't seem to think they would ever have used these words to put him down prior to his great loss of his children, servants, wealth and health.

II. DISTINGUISHING FROM THOSE WHO PROSPER (Job 12:5-6)

“Those who are at ease have contempt for misfortune as the fate of those whose feet are slipping.

*6. **The tents of marauders are undisturbed**, and those who provoke God are secure — those God has in his hand. [Or - those whose god is in their own hand].”*

Job 12:5,6

“The prosperous despise those who, like Job, have trouble.”

*NIV Study Bible Footnotes
Version 202
p. 841*

Have you ever had trouble in your life? Jesus told us not to worry because He has overcome the world. He faced trouble on a regular basis. **He warned His disciple that troubling days would face them because they were willing to be recognized as followers of Christ and willing to be obedient to His teaching and example.**

Many financial experts are warning people of financial crisis that will soon overtake this world that will be greater than the global crisis of 2007-2008. We've recently witnessed a trend of large financial institutions and banks that have gone bankrupt. It is causing people to reevaluate where to place what money they have been saving.

It was during the Paris Summit for a New Global Financial Pact (June 22, 2023) that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund took steps to boost their **financial crisis funds**. Their goal was to make road maps for the next 18-24 months for **debt relief** and **climate finance** in the tune of \$100,000,000,000.

“How Dare you. How dare you upset the order. How dare you step out of your crease and summon us all to this **infection moment** that will determine whether we will have the capacity and the will to bring peace and scope to the problem.”

*Mia Mottley (Barbados Prime Minister)
Called it the “How Dare You Summit.”*

Basically, the **rich nations** are saying to the **poor nations** that you must agree to our guidelines if you expect to get any money with a **temporary hold on any repayments.**

II. DISTINGUISHING FROM THOSE WHO PROSPER (Job 12:5-6) (Contd.)

Job was calling out those who do little to help out those who are slipping into a pit that they won't be able to escape without help from those who care little about the fate of the doomed. I don't believe Job was looking for **handouts** but he probably was addressing the need to **hand ups, not in money but in the use of their condemning words!**

We frequently get calls from people expecting us to meet their needs without any questions about why they are in distress. It's becoming noticeable that they are condemning to the agencies that are presently helping them. God expects us to be diligent with the giving that we receive as a church.

One of the greatest ways that churches can help those in need is to graciously and humbly teach people how to manage their finances based upon God's Word. I believe a black cloud of financial failure is inevitable and may take place this year. Our membership chose wisely to get out of debt and do everything we can to limit our spending according to our offerings. **I will tell you that is not easy to maintain as the financial landscape is changing at such a rapid rate.**

III. DISPLAYING FAIRLY GOD'S POWER (Job 12:13-25)

What would you say if I asked you describe God? Would your description of Him change if you just went through the most trying time of your life? We need to be fair and honest when we talk about the power of God.

*** As young boy of 10 years old, I became angry at God when I was diagnosed with having Legg Perthes Disease. I'd never experience such pain in a short period of time. It was more painful than my broken femur or the broken arm I experienced. It was more upsetting than having a fish hook in my eye. I sure didn't think God was being fair to me. After all, I wasn't THAT BAD as a kid even though I must admit, I was bad. ***

"How quickly we forget God's deliverance in our lives. How easily we take for granted the miracles He performed in our past."

David Wilkerson

"In life, the greatness of God is often realised during the darkest hour of the night."

III. DISPLAYING FAIRLY GOD'S POWER (Job 12:13-25) (Contd.)

Job chose to be fair with his words and exalt **God (Yahweh** - the word used to describe God as a God who keeps His covenant) beginning in verse 13 with short description that sets the foundational thought that Job explained in further detail.

“To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.”

Job 12:13

These next 13 verses describe many aspects of God's greatness, power and sovereignty.

1. His destructive power - *Job 12:14*
2. His power over the captives - *Job 12:14*
3. His control over droughts and floods - *Job 12:15*
4. He has insight into the deceived as well as the deceiver - *Job 12:16*
5. He removes rulers and exposes unjust judges - *Job 12:17*
6. He sets the prisoners free and allows them run unhindered - *Job 12:18*
7. He removes priests in shame and brings officials to a place of humbleness - *Job 12:19*
8. He stops the words of the wise and causes the elders to be void of discernment - *Job 12:20*
9. He brings nobles to their knees and takes away the weapons of the mighty - *Job 12:21*
10. He overcomes darkness by His glorious light - *Job 12:22*
11. He controls the greatness and size of nations - *Job 12:23*
12. He exposes leaders as fools and causes them to wander aimlessly - *Job 12:24*
13. He causes them to lose their direction and stagger like one who is intoxicated. - *Job 12:25*

It is overtime in our world to exalt the LORD our God and to acknowledge His glory and power and majesty over all of His creation and especially by Church that is supposed to be under Him.

*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
21. to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!
Amen.”*

Ephesians 3:20,21

*** I was listening to a question and answer period with Dr. John MacArthur Jr. When he was recently asked . . . *“To what extent is a member of a church is required to obey his pastor? How much authority does a pastor have in the lives of his congregants?”*

“None! I have no authority in this church personally. My experience doesn’t give me any authority. My knowledge, my education doesn’t give me any authority. My position doesn’t give me any authority. My title doesn’t give me any authority - that’s why I don’t like titles. Only the Word of God has authority. Christ is the head of the church and He mediates His rule in the Church through His Word. I have no authority. I have no authority beyond the Scripture. I can never exceed what is written.

And to regard yourself as superior, I have nothing to say to you that puts any demand upon you if it isn’t from the Word of God.” ***

*“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul?
Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task.
6. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.
7. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.
8. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.
9. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”*

I Corinthians 3:5-9

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Date: July 9/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: It’s Time for the Reign of God - E

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Ephesians 3:20,21; I Corinthians 3:5-9