

THE BOOK OF JOB
Words from a Deep Grieving Soul -
Breaking the Silence
Text: Job 3:1-26

Key Word: Grieving

Key Thought: Words from a Grieving Heart Are Not the Most Reliable Source to Advance With.

As we continue these messages on the Book of Job, we come upon the speech that Job gave to those who remained silent with him for seven days and nights. **“Silence is golden”** is a well-known phrase. It was made into a song by a band named **“The Four Seasons”** in 1964. *“Speech is silver, silence is golden”* has been described as *“perhaps the best known of the proverbs concerned with silence.”* Similar proverbs in English (239) include **“Still waters run deep”** and **“Empty vessels make the most sound.”**

I wish I could say that the words that Job used after these days of silence were great to follow. The problem is they are not what would normally come out from the mouth of a man who was noted as **“upright and blameless”** by God. There is one scripture that was written by king Solomon that we should consider when comparing the words that came forth from a grieving heart.

“In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.”

Proverbs 10:19
New King James Version

“When there are many words, wrongdoing is unavoidable, But one who restrains his lips is wise.”

Proverbs 10:19
New American Standard Bible

“Hide your strength and buy your time.” Another way of saying this is **“hide your ambitions and disguise your claws”** which was the Foreign Policy of Deng Xiaoping (1949-1979) in a nutshell that brought about the Korean War that China backed against South Korea and the United States. I believe this same thought of **“hide your ambitions and disguise your claws”** is what we are going to see when we begin chapter 4. I wonder if the lack of words were able to overcome the true inner feelings that were building in Job’s **“SYMpathetic Counselors”** that I spoke on in my last sermon?

So How Did Job Respond after Seven Days and Nights of Silence?

I. DID HE CURSE THE DAY OF HIS BIRTH (Job 3:1-10)?

II. DID HE PREFER BEING BURIED LIKE A STILLBIRTH CHILD (Job 3:11-19)?

III. DID HE PREFER EUTHANASIA OVER LIFE (Job 3:20-23)?

I. DID HE CURSE THE DAY OF HIS BIRTH (Job 3:1-10)?

I've discovered that one of the best ways of explaining an event is by asking questions that delve right into the words that were used. So I'm approaching this like an investigative reporter. These are the kind of reporters I like to listen to and compare their response to identical newscasts. Doing that has spared me embarrassment and jumping to a wrong conclusion that I have to apologise for. Unfortunately, I still tend to make this mistake but not as often.

Lets keep in mind that this is the early and first response of a godly man who has faced what most of us would consider overwhelming trials and testing from Satan himself.

“It is important to note that Job did not curse God. In the beginning the Lord had cursed the miserable conditions that followed on the sin of our first parents. God did not curse man, and Job does not curse himself . . . He does not yet question God, let alone reproach him.”

Francis I. Andersen
“*Job An Introduction & Commentary*”
pp. 99, 100

“After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.”

Job 3:1

Scholars tell us that he literary cursed “*his day.*” What would normally be a time of celebration became day he despised. He wasn't looking forward to time of celebration with a birthday cake and balloons and lots of music, food and fellowship. Instead, he then **looked back** to the day of his birth and described what he **NOW** felt about that day. There is nothing to suggest that he felt this way when his life was full of abundance, joy and good health.

The challenges of life can plague our thoughts. Psychologists have noted that when we reach our elder years our mind can paint vivid pictures of the difficulties we've faced and at the same time we can't remember someone's name or what we did or said within the last week. Extreme difficulties can change our lifelong beliefs if we allow them to. Our attitudes and even the way we speak change quickly if we don't guard against these assaults.

I. DID HE CURSE THE DAY OF HIS BIRTH (Job 3:1-10)? (Contd.)

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14

“Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

Psalm 141:3

When I checked the web for “*guard the words of my mouth*” I found page after page of the 167,000,000 results were ONLY scripture verses. There is no doubt that the LORD is the best one to go to hold back what our heart can feel like. The Bible says that it is out of the heart that our mouth speaks.

II. DID HE PREFER BEING BURIED LIKE A STILLBIRTH CHILD (Job 3:11-19)?

“Or why was I not hidden away in the ground like a stillborn child, like an infant who never saw the light of day?”

Job 3:16

In today’s culture he could even be describing an aborted baby. The word “**fetus**” is never used in the Bible The Latin word for “**fetus**” was sometimes transferred figuratively to the newborn creature itself, or used in a sense of "offspring, brood" Today it is distinguished as “**infanticide.**” It was also used of plants, in the sense of “**fruit, produce, shoot,**” and figuratively as “**growth, production.**” The comparable Greek word means “*to plant.*” As you can see it loses its meaning of being a human being as the pro choice movement forcefully proclaims.

Job was perhaps the earliest book to explain what happens when anyone who lived during the Old Testament died and went to Sheol. He compares the difference between kings, counsellors, builders and princes and a child who never saw the light of day - a stillborn.

We must remember that God’s full revelation and His mysteries were not yet explained. He didn’t understand that about God’s judgment when we die. He only understood it to be like a restful sleep and as time of peace (Job 3:13,17). This is where some people believe we sense nothing or feel nothing after we die. He just believed that the many times of turbulence in people’s lives would cease at death.

II. DID HE PREFER BEING BURIED LIKE A STILLBIRTH CHILD (Job 3:11-19)? (Contd.)

In the New Testament Jesus spoke of **Abraham's Bosom or side** (Luke 16:19-31) in **Hades** where Lazarus was comforted while the rich man tormented and in agony in "**Tartarus**" when the most evil angelic beings await their day of judgement. According to Wikipedia "*In Greek mythology, Tartarus is the deep abyss that is used as a dungeon of torment and suffering for the wicked and as the prison for the Titans.*"

Jesus also described the division that will take place at our time of death (Luke 13:22-30) which He described as a "**narrow door**" that those who didn't have an intimate relationship would not be saved and would be separated as evildoers where there will be "**weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

Job wasn't aware that there was a heaven to gain and a hell to be shunned and avoided. The Egyptians later on in history also incorrectly believed that only the Pharaohs and the most noble of their society would have any chance of entering into an afterlife of pleasure. Their remains in modern pyramids proved they were wrong.

"For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell (Tartarus), putting them in chains of darkness (gloomy dungeons) to be held for judgment.

5. If he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

6. if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.

7. and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless

8. (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—

9. if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment."

II Peter 2:4,7-9

III. DID HE PREFER EUTHANASIA OVER LIFE (Job 3:20-23)?

No one is set to die until they are willing to live. No one should welcome death unless they have prayed for the sting of death to be removed by Jesus. It is God's grace that compels me to live as long as God grants me to breathe.

“Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there.”

Steve Jobs
Cofounder, chairman, and CEO of Apple

“The first death drives the soul out of the body; the misery of the second death is, that it keeps the soul in it.”

Rev. Thomas Robinson, D.D.
“The Preacher's Complete Homiletic
Commentary on the Book of Job”
p. 26

Job is an example of those who once lived a life that seemed to be hedged in with protection and blessings only to feel that he was then hedged in with darkness and a life filled with turmoil. He was mistaking God for what the devil had done to him. Satan had instigated God to allow him to wrap this veil of darkness over Job's life.

I am grateful to hear that our government has placed a one year moratorium on **medical assistance in dying MAID**. It is a hellish scheme of reducing the population of those world leaders who determine even over a doctor's conclusion that a number of people have become a burden to society. **On one hand they spend billions to increase the length of our lives and then realize they now need to end what they have prolonged.**

I said in the service for Ginette Merizzi, “*There were many times Ginette couldn't understand at the time the purpose behind her adversities, but deep down she knew God was up to something and His timing would be right on.*”

God often keeps us hidden as to His will and purposes (Job 3:23). Our present life seems SO LONG when the burdens of life are heavy and yet SO SHORT when we are adored with a life of blessings and joy.

My honest and cautious conclusion to these three questions are that we must be very prudent about trying to apply the words of this chapter to our lives during the times when **burdens seem to weigh us down**. **God allowed these words to unveil His progressive plan for our lives.** We need to be careful where we put question marks and even periods when God has chosen to insert a comma. In some cases, an exclamation mark would be wiser!

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Date: Feb 26/23

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: "The Hand that Holds the World" - D

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II. DID HE PREFER BEING BURIED LIKE A STILLBIRTH CHILD (Job 3:11-19)? - *Job 3:16; Job 3:13,17; Luke 16:19-31; Luke 13:22-30; II Peter 2:4,7-9*

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