

The Wrong of Self-Defense

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Job 27-31.

B. Job's friends try to uncover any evil that he is guilty of, but Job will not admit to a wrong that he did not do.

C. Job is defending himself.

II. If Job's friends are not careful; they will receive the punishment for the crime of which they accuse Job.

III. Job's meditation.

A. Wisdom is illusive--man can find gold, but he cannot find wisdom.

B. This wisdom is in reference to God's activity in Job's life.

C. Wisdom is the knowledge of the nature of things--the reasons behind why things happen.

D. God knows the where and the what for all problems.

E. The fear of the Lord is wisdom, and the departure from evil is understanding.

1. The worst thing for Job to bear was the silence of God.

2. Unanswered prayer, unexplained violence, and unfulfilled hopes hurt us the most in the midst of anguish.

IV. Job's defense.

A. He recognized before God the importance of what he sees--Job made a covenant with his eyes.

B. He is innocent of adultery, free from greed, gloating over the misfortune of others, pollution of the environment, etc.

V. What we can say of our own trials.

A. Job's theology was too small for His God--Job has come to recognize the God of the universe by the end.

B. Job thought too much of himself--the heart is deceitful above all things.

1. There are depths of problems within us that we are not even aware of yet.

2. God knows more about a person than he knows about himself.

C. Job's self-vindication explains the silence of God.

1. As long as a man defends himself, God will not justify him.
2. If we defend ourselves, God cannot defend us.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean that the fear of the Lord is wisdom?

2. Why was Job wrong in his self-vindication?

3. Have you ever experienced God's silence in a similar way to Job? What do you think God was teaching you about yourself through this period of silence? Explain.
