UPC Family Daily Devotional

October – Week 3

Oct 17 Sunday Job 9:1-10

Job agrees with the truth in Bildad’s words: God’s righteousness is perfect. Yet, he also perceives that the way God rules the world is not as simplistic as his friends would have him believe. God’s wisdom and power are far beyond our ability to understand, so His actions will at times challenge our limited perspective. What Job does understand of God, he holds on to: God is just, infinitely wise, and all-powerful.

What truths do you hold on to when you feel overwhelmed by what you do not understand?

Oct 18 Monday Job 9:11-24

Job hits rock bottom and despises his very life. He also does not brush off the fact that God allows the righteous to suffer injustice although he does not understand why. His words echo the feelings expressed in many of the psalms. We must learn to be honest before God about our thoughts and feelings, including our spiritual struggles. God sees our hearts and knows our turmoil infinitely better than we do.

What makes it difficult for you to openly share your spiritual struggles with God and others?

Oct 19 Tuesday Job 9:25-35

Job recognizes that he cannot stand in God’ presence alone. He needs a mediator to bridge the chasm between the infinite Creator and mortal man, someone who can remove the rod of God’s wrath from him so that he may approach God with peace rather than terror. God knows our need and has provided Jesus Christ as that Savior.

How do you preach the gospel to yourself every day?

Oct 20 Wednesday Job 10:1-12

Job is asking questions many of us struggle with but do not ask because we fear that they express a lack of faith in God. Yet our Heavenly Father is not put off by or afraid of our questions. Knowing God as your Father frees you to express yourself to Him, and you can be confident that He is listening and will respond in His perfect timing.

What questions and dilemmas have you been struggling with lately? What encourages you to be more open with God?

Oct 21 Thursday Job 10:13-22

Job feels that God as turned against him and doubts whether his innocence counts for much after all. Battered by suffering, Job suspects that God has become his enemy and had been planning a vicious attack against him from the start. How can we know God’s thoughts about us for sure, especially during difficult times? When we look to Christ, the God-Man, who endured the worst kind of pain and humiliation for our sake, we can see that God’s love for us is constant regardless of our circumstances.

How does our relationship with God change the way you face hardship?

Oct 22 Friday Job 11:1-11

Zophar takes the place of God by accusing Job of wrongdoing, for which he has no proof. He even presumes to know the secret wisdom that God has employed in Job’s case, and he goads God into showing up and revealing it. The phrase “Job’s comforter” is usually associated with someone who intends to help but ends up causing more pain. When we assume that we have solutions to every problem, we can easily become arrogant and insensitive to people’s needs.

When has your own arrogance become an obstacle to empathizing with those in need? How can you learn not to give in to your assumptions when you hear of others’ troubles?

Oct 23 Saturday Job 11:12-20

Although Zophar misdiagnoses Job’s guilt as the source of his misery, he does offer a helpful remedy for our sinful hearts – repentance. He also outlines the benefits of repentance, which he believes will deliver Job from his misery and restore him to prosperity. While it is true that freedom from sin dispels the darkness that otherwise weighs upon our hearts, the true purpose of repentance is neither our personal comfort nor material blessings but PEACE WITH GOD. Repentance restores our fellowship with God, our Creator and Redeemer. God Himself is the greatest good that we seek.

What is your purpose in repentance? What promises does God offer to those who repent?