UPC Family Daily Devotional

November – Week 2

Memory Verse of the Week

I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.

Job 23-12

Nov 7 Sunday Job 20:1-11

Zophar is greatly disturbed by Job’s words, the bold declaration of his hope in his Redeemer- God and takes offense at him. His response describes the miserable fate of the wicked, which he desperately wants Job to own up to. When we communicate the gospel to an unbelieving world, we should likewise expect the ridicule and condemnation of those who close their ears to the truth. We must remember that we are called to speak the truth in love and to stand firmly in the hope that the Holy Spirit will open hearts at the right time.

How do your unbelieving friends respond when you talk about God? Take some time to pray for them and that God will give you more opportunities to share the gospel effectively.



Nov 8 Monday Job 20:12-29

Zophar has passed the point of simply insinuating Job has done wrong and now blatantly accuses him of it. With harsh condemnations, Job’s friends try to get him to confess his sinfulness and seek after God’s mercy. Again, Job’s hardships are not the result of God punishing Job but of God testing him in light of Satan’s original challenge. The lesson remains for us that God may allow us to enter into times of testing in order to refine us and develop our faith.

What are some ways God has used difficulties to refine your character and build your faith?

Nov 9 Tuesday Job 21:1-16

Job is perplexed when he considers the prosperity of the wicked in contrast with his present sufferings. He says the wicked shun the very idea of getting right with God as they amass wealth and pursue sinful pleasure, often avoiding the judgment they deserve. But the truth is, we do not get the wrath we deserve either. Only God knows when and how to dispense grace and judgment, according to His perfect wisdom. All will receive their due in the end, so let us trust that God knows what He is doing.

In what ways have you experienced the mercy of God?

 

Nov 10 Wednesday Job 21:17-34

At the heart of Job’s complaint is the frustration that his current situation seems incredibly unfair: he, a righteous man, is in pain while the wicked prosper. Job is not satisfied with the thought that judgment will come upon the children of the wicked: rather, he desires it to fall upon the very ones who practice evil. But he also knows that no one has anything to teach God on how to deal with evildoers. There will be times in our journey of faith when we will be tempted to question God, be angry with Him, or be dissatisfied with what He has done or chosen not to do. It is during those very times that we must humbly accept that He knows better than us.

When have you been frustrated with God? What did you learn about yourself and God during those times?

 

Nov 11 Thursday Job 22:1-20

Eliphaz’s main accusation against Job here is that he lacked generosity toward those in need and chose to hoard his wealth rather than use it to help others, which Job later refutes by explaining his generous nature toward the less fortunate. It is a good reminder however, that God is deeply concerned with how His people treat the poor and underprivileged. By helping those in need, we reflect the good and generous nature of our heavenly Father and use the resources He put under our stewardship for His pleasure and glory.

What are some ways God is calling you to become more generous?

Nov 12 Friday Job 22:21-30

Eliphaz assures Job that if only he would repent, God would hear him and establish him according to his desires. These are lofty promises from a man who has yet to prove himself reliable. Sometimes, even well-intentioned people are capable of giving ill-informed advice that sounds God-inspired and timely. But the Christian knows that human promises are ultimately shaky ground. And while God can speak through believers around us, we must test all human teaching against God’s reveled Word.

Why is it sometimes easier to find spiritual discernment from human sources rather than God?

 Nov 13 Saturday Job 23:1-17

Job realizes that although he cannot see God at the moment, this does not mean that God does not see him. Just because Job does not realize the purpose of God at this juncture does not mean that there is no purpose to God’s ways. In the end, Job considers that if his life is in the sovereign hands of God, whatever happens will be for his refining. As believers, it is not the full comprehension of our circumstances that sustains us through the fire; it is knowing who is in control of every circumstance.

When do you struggle to believe that God is in control of everything in your life? If God works for the good of those who love him, how should you react to your trials?

