

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

Job's Wife

David Duncan

A couple of weeks ago my daughter in Houston called, and in discussing the recent series on, "Is there any benefit in Human Suffering?" she asked a question about Job's wife. I have never thought much about his wife, and there is not a lot we know about her as she appears in Job 2:9-10, she impacts readers greatly. Upon previous readings, she strikes me as antagonistic. I have read Job several times during my life and have always dismissed his wife as faithless, negative, and unhelpful. So thanks to Wendy, I have taken another look at Job's wife and reconsidered my position.

It is easy to be judgmental toward Job's wife -- and yet if we look deeply, I think most can relate to her -- basically while overwhelmed by emotion she is saying that serving God does not benefit. Others likewise gave in to bitterness in their expressions:

Elijah -

1 kings 19:14 - "I have been very jealous ... I, only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away"

Habakkuk -

Habakkuk 1:13 Why do You look on those who deal treacherously,

And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours

A person more righteous than he?

2:1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

Asaph

Psalms 73:2-3 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;

My steps had nearly slipped. (3) For I was envious of the boastful,

When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

... 13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain,...

We judge these not by their envy, despair, etc. -- we judge them by their perseverance, how they acted after enduring difficult times, and their faithfulness after seeing the error of their ways.

What is lacking is how Job's wife behaved afterwards. If the children in Job 42 are indeed hers, then she remained faithful to Job during this time -- and from the scripture there is no reason to infer otherwise. And being faithful to Job, she no doubt learned faithfulness to God -- for he was undoubted a good teacher.

Like Habakkuk, Asaph, Elijah, we should look to God for answers and wait to see how he speaks to us and be reproved by his word.

Next Week : Eternity

This week's video lesson is: (Contact me if you do not have Quicktime)

Hebrews 11:1-7, Faith Essential To Please God

http://www.bumby.org/tv_program/current_video.php

Online Study Guide Available, Contact me for link.