

“Who Obscures God’s Counsel without Knowledge?” (Job 42:1–6)(7.3.22)

Job 42:1–6 (NIV84)

42 Then Job replied to the Lord:

² “I know that you can do all things;

no plan of yours can be thwarted.

³ You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?’

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴ “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;

I will question you,

and you shall answer me.’

⁵ My ears had heard of you

but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶ Therefore I despise myself

and repent in dust and ashes.”

The word of God for the people of God.

LET US PRAY.

Title: **“Who Obscures God’s Counsel without Knowledge?”**

INTRODUCTION: Life isn’t breathing. Life is knowing God. – Kevin Burgess {Repeat}

This is an unusual way of thinking about life and contrary to what most of our modern society thinks. Too many rarely think about God – especially about the God of the Bible. And even some that profess the Lord Jesus as Savior create and worship a figment of their imagination. They separate and compartmentalize so as to ignore human sin and God’s judgment.

Many people are happy to eat, drink, and be merry. They live day by day. They celebrate with family and friends. They store up treasures here on earth: full closets, full basements, full attics, and full storage facilities. In response to the pandemic, to stay safe, it was normal to isolate and give up full living to keep breathing day by day. They do not have an eternal perspective.

But Job, who had it all, lost it all. Everything in this life is temporary. People get sick and there are tragic accidents. All of Job’s children died. He himself was attacked by Satan with illness. All of Job’s fortune was decimated. And, it takes 42 chapters for Job to find truth.

Job has three good friends who came to bring him comfort. At first, they quietly sit with him, just sharing their presence and support. But, there is the question that beats within all our hearts: why? Why is there suffering? Why is their pain? Job 5:7 (NIV84) Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward.

In their Jewish culture, and many other cultures, Job must have sinned somehow. He needs to confess his sin and get right with God. So, they begin their "friendly inquisition." "C'mon Job, don't be a hypocrite, tell us what you are hiding." "We are here for you Job, just tell us what sin has caused this calamity."

There is an appeal in this type of thinking, cause and effect. It helps us make sense of the world. It helps us makes sense of pain and suffering. When it happens to someone else, we wouldn't say this out loud, but a little part of us believes we must be living rightly. But when it comes our way, we are usually baffled and befuddled.

BODY:

Throughout this "friendly inquisition," Job adamantly proclaims his innocence. In fact, he calls on Almighty God to give him his day in court. Job tells his friends that he will be vindicated

before them and the LORD. I don't blame Job one bit and find him to be a highly sympathetic figure.

Hear what the LORD says in the eighth verse of this book: Job 1:8 (NIV84) Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Job does not get his day in God's court. Even after many inquiries and requests by Job, the LORD remains silent...until the 38th chapter of this book.

Job 38:1–5 (NIV84) *The Lord Speaks*

38 Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm.

He said:

² "Who is this that darkens my counsel
with words without knowledge?

³ Brace yourself like a man;

I will question you,

and you shall answer me.

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the earth's
foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.

⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

Through several chapters, the LORD takes Job on a revelation tour. Like a hiking trail with Xs on the trees to mark the way, this guided tour is marked by 70 questions put to Job by His God. The LORD makes it clear that He is God the Creator. Next, there is no power greater than God's power. Our loving Lord is our sustainer and provider. We know that every good gift comes from Father God. The purposes and promises of God are guaranteed. Our omniscient God has perfect knowledge, which has a comprehensive scope.

Job tells God, "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you." This eyesight is the spiritual vision we learned about last week in the message, "What is Unseen." It speaks of an intimacy and a connection, a personal knowledge of God. How do we gain such eyesight? You will not be surprised when I tell you a primary way is through the Holy Scriptures, the inerrant word of our infallible God.

Today's Turning Point with Dr. David Jeremiah

Tuesday, June 28
Sieve

A Mind Like a

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Philippians 4:8, NLT

The dictionary defines a filter as a device through which air or liquid is passed to remove impurities. People wore masks during COVID, hoping to filter out the virus. Our swimming pools have filters to keep the water pure. We need oil filters for our cars, air filters for our heating systems, coffee filters for our morning cups, aquarium filters for our fish, and light filters for our cameras.

What filters our mind, keeping our thoughts pure?

There's only one filter for the mind, and that's the Word of God. When you internalize His Word through diligent study and memorization, it builds an internal spiritual and mental filter that helps us fight temptation, resist depression, and increase our wisdom. Through studying God's Word, our minds are renewed, and our hearts cleansed.

Find a way to interact daily with Scripture. It will change your mind!

That devotion closes with a quote from Chris Mueller: *“Let the Bible saturate your internal life, your mind, your thinking. Let the Bible be...your filter...Choose to have God’s Word dwell within you, which means having the Bible be at home in your mind.”*

We need this scriptural filter because it works supernaturally. By contrast, we have this perspective put in verse by Edmund Blake:

This Life’s dim windows of the soul
Distorts the Heavens from Pole to Pole,
And leads you to believe a lie,
When you **see with, not through**, the eye.

A. W. Tozer wrote, “As we come to the Word of God, we do not come just for information; we come for an encounter with the living Word of God.... I will not settle for just the text. I want to see beyond that text and encounter the Christ—the Word of Life.”

Our study of the written Word reveals the living Word. The next time you open your Bible, think of

it as a conversation in which the Author is speaking through His Book personally to you.

There have been times when I have lost myself in the manifest presence of the Lord as I meditated on His Word; He has come mysteriously close, defying explanation."

Charles Spurgeon preached: "But, mark you! prosperity is a painted window which shuts out much of the clear light of God, and only when the blue, and the crimson, and the golden tinge are removed, is the glass restored to its full transparency.

Adversity thus takes away tinge, and colour, and dimness, and we see our God far better than before, if our eyes are prepared for the light. The Lord had taken everything away from Job, and this paved the way to his giving him more of Himself. **In the absence of other goods the good God is the better seen.**

In prosperity God is *heard*, and that is a blessing; but in adversity God is *seen*, and that is a greater blessing. **Sanctified adversity quickens our spiritual sensitiveness.** Sorrow after sorrow will wake up the spirit, and it will infuse into it a delicacy of perception which, perhaps, does not often come to us in any other way. I purposely say, "perhaps"; for I believe that some choice

saints are favoured to reach it by smoother ways; but I think they are very few."

Upon rightly seeing God, Job confesses, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

David Platt preached:

"The picture is, not of sin that caused his suffering, but he's repenting, he's turning, that's the whole picture. Literally when it says "I despise myself", this could be rendered "I reject what I've said." He is turning from the small view of God that he had in his suffering to the great view of God that he has now. And we repent of small thinking about God, and turn to great thinking about God. That's the picture here, and I got a feeling it's a confession that every single one of us in our lives in this room can, should make, constantly turning from small views of God to true, to real, to great and grand views of God. This is how he turns. Our initial reaction is awe, it leads us to turn from small views of God to great views of God and **our eternal response is adoration.**"

Let us hear a modern day testimony from an article in The Christian Post, January 6, 2015:

"Matt Chandler, lead pastor of a multi-site church near Dallas, Texas, announced Monday that his most recent MRI brain scans returned positive

results and he's been cancer free for over five years.

"Astounded again at God's faithfulness. Another clean MRI today. Hard to believe it's been over 5 years #jehovahrapha," Chandler [wrote on Twitter Monday](#).

On Thanksgiving Day in 2009, Chandler, lead teaching pastor at The Village Church in Highland Village, collapsed in his living room from a seizure that resulted from a golf-ball size tumor in his right frontal lobe.

The Christian Post reported that while his doctor was able to remove most of the malignant brain tumor through surgery, 18 months of chemotherapy and radiation treatment was still required. This was followed by regular MRI scans to monitor Chandler's progress every year.

In 2013, Chandler was [featured in CP](#) for being among a new generation of pastors preaching and teaching orthodox biblical Christianity and traditional biblical views on family and morality.

Chandler, who continued preaching through his chemo and radiation treatments, was 39 at the time and had witnessed The Village Church's multi-site weekly attendance grow from 160 to 10,000 in a span of 11 years.

Speaking about balancing orthodox biblical theology with being relevant to young generations and engaging the culture, [Chandler told CP](#): "I don't think there's anything more relevant than orthodox Christianity because the second you move away from orthodox Christianity I don't believe you have Christianity any longer. You have some version of it but it ultimately lacks its power to transform, and lacks its ability to call sinners to be reconciled to God, because you can't call anybody a 'sinner.'"

"Ultimately," he added, "orthodox Christianity is the most relevant thing in the world and it alone has the power to transform lives. I start to lose track of what we're talking about if there's a version of Christianity that no longer says that sin exists and that people don't have to repent of it. At this point, you no longer have the cross of Jesus Christ."

The president of the Acts 29 Network for church planters and author of *The Explicit Gospel*, Chandler and his wife, Lauren, are the parents of three children and have spoken openly about the challenges they've faced with the brain tumor diagnosis and multiple miscarriages.

"Before Matt had the brain tumor, I had experienced a couple miscarriages," [Lauren told](#)

[CP](#) at the Defined by God conference for pastors' wives in San Diego, California, in 2012. "I feel like the Lord really prepared me through that season of praising Him in the hurt, and really that was where my heart was resting, was in praising Him and not in questioning and doubting."

She continued, "He is big enough to hear my doubts and questions and my crying out to Him, literally, kind of like, 'Why?' Actually, He gave me a picture in my head of this heart being wrung out like a towel, and just this phrase that sometimes He wrings the worship and just this idea of the Lord squeezing our hearts and squeezing that worship out sometimes — that real deep worship.

"I really think that our hearts will not rest any other place but in worshipping Him and praising Him in the midst of heartaches and storms and lost and doubt and frustrations. But sometimes it's a fight. It's a fight sometimes."

CONCLUSION:

Earlier in Job's trial he made a confession of faith:
Job 19:25–27 (NIV84)

²⁵ I know that my Redeemer lives,

and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed,

yet in my flesh I will see God;

²⁷ I myself will see him

with my own eyes—I, and not another.

How my heart yearns within me!

And in the end, Job did see his Savior. Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. But God can do all things; no plan of the Lord's can be thwarted. David Platt affirms, "This is an awesome truth in the book of Job. Satan's attempts to attack God's people only serve to accomplish God's purpose."

I declare with the Apostle Paul:

Romans 11:33–36 (NIV84) *Doxology*

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,

and his paths beyond tracing out!

³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Who has ever given to God,

that God should repay him?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Let us now prepare our hearts to know God more intimately as we celebrate Holy Communion.

Amen and amen. Let us pray.