



“The Fire on the Ashes”

Job 32:1-37:24 - November 8, 2020

Questions for Application and Fellowship

MY STORY

1. Discuss your experience with anger. What kind of thing makes you mad? When was your last surge of anger? How do you typically handle the frustration or indignation that rises up in you? Do you lash out? Do you bury it? Do you seethe inwardly? Do you throw things? How do you deal with anger?

QUICK REVIEW

Job 32-37 presents the argument of a new character that emerges onto the scene. Elihu has been listening all along. Job has outlasted the retribution theology of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar and has maintained his vexed, sour spirit toward God. Elihu believes that all four men, including Job, have spoken incorrectly and irreverently of the Almighty. He boldly enters the conversation, expressing his great anger at what he has heard. He claims to speak for God as he rectifies the matter at hand, diagnosing problems and giving fresh insight.

This weekend’s message focused on three portions of Elihu’s speech:

1. Elihu enters the conversation (32:1-22)
2. Elihu puts his finger on a problem (33:8-12)
3. Elihu opens a door of understanding (36:1-16)

Was any point in this weekend’s message particularly challenging, encouraging or helpful for you?

Why did God want you to hear this message now?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Elihu comes onto the scene with burning anger. Was this godly? Is it ok for Christians to be angry? Read these passages and discuss their meaning for your life and among followers of Christ. Do any other passages come to mind? How do they reveal your need for God's grace?

Matthew 5:21-26
Ephesians 4:25-32

2. Eliphaz was certain of a positive correlation between old age and wisdom (32:7). However, the young man Elihu was able to speak into Job's situation with more deft and insight than any of the others. Wisdom is in fact often found among those with the more experience in life (See Titus 2:1-5 & I Peter 5:5). But what do the following passages teach us about wisdom and younger people? How do you think this can play out in the body life of the church?

Daniel 1 (esp. v.17)
I Timothy 4:11-16
I John 2:12-14

3. Job did not suffer calamity as a result of sinful rebellion in his life. But his suffering did lead to resentment, irreverence and impure speech toward God. We are all capable of this response. What wisdom is given by James? Read James 1:12-21 and share the principles you glean.

4. Elihu spoke of the value of suffering in the lives of the righteous. Adversity opens our ears to God's purposes, as stated in Job 36:15. Read Psalm 119: 67, 71. Have you ever had your ear opened to God's Word through suffering? What happened?