

Sunday Morning Worship Feb 1

Feb 9, 2026

Summary

Longing, Lament, and Covenant: Job's Final Plea

Scripture References

Job 29–31; Psalm 73:16–28; Job 2:10; Psalm 23; Genesis 6; Isaiah 53:7–8; Exodus 21:24; Romans 3:10; Psalm 14; Psalm 53; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1

Introduction

Job's “closing argument” (chs. 29–31) functions like a final speech in a courtroom. He recounts former days of favor, contrasts them with present disgrace, and then swears a solemn oath of innocence. The preacher framed these chapters around our need to understand God's sovereignty—especially when blessings vanish and suffering remains.

Key Points / Exposition

1. Longing for Former Days (Job 29)

- Job reminisces about “the months of old” when:
 - God's lamp shone on him and guided him through darkness (vv. 2–4).
 - Friendship with God overflowed in visible blessing—honor at the city gate, respect from youth and elders alike (vv. 7–11).
 - His life was a conduit of mercy: defending orphans, sustaining widows, clothing the poor, breaking the fangs of the oppressor (vv. 12–17).
- Theologically:
 - Job yearns most for God's nearness, not for wealth or status.
 - His righteousness was “put on” him (v. 14)—a foreshadowing of imputed righteousness in Christ.

2. Lamenting Present Humiliation (Job 30)

- “But now…” signals total reversal. Those once beneath him now mock, spit, and abuse him (vv. 1–10).
- Job feels discarded by society and abandoned by God (vv. 16–23):
 - Graphic imagery: swept up like debris in a storm, tossed by violent winds.
 - He calls God's silence “cruel” (v. 21), exposing raw honesty in prayer.

- Christological echo: Like the Suffering Servant (Isa 53) Job endures scorn without vindication—pointing beyond himself to the cross.

3. Living under a Self-Imposed Covenant (Job 31)

- Structure: 13 “If…then…for…but” oaths.
 - Sins named: lust, deceit, injustice to servants, neglect of poor, greed, idolatry, secret hypocrisy, vindictiveness, exploitation of land.
 - Judgments invoked: crop failure, broken limbs, marital disgrace, legal condemnation.
- Purpose: to assert integrity before God who “sees my ways and numbers all my steps” (v. 4).
- Limits exposed:
 - Job's covenant is sincere yet human; only God's covenant in Christ truly justifies.
 - His logic— “If I suffer though innocent, God must be unjust” —crumbles before the mystery of sovereign wisdom soon to be revealed (ch. 38).

Major Lessons & Revelations

- True nostalgia is a “nostalgia for paradise” —the unbroken fellowship humanity once had with God.
- God's apparent silence may be the “necessary price” for accomplishing a greater good we cannot yet discern.
- Imputed righteousness (hinted in Job) becomes explicit in the gospel: our sins laid on Christ, His righteousness laid on us.
- Integrity before God includes social righteousness: justice, mercy, sexual purity, stewardship, hospitality.

Practical Application

1. Examine what you miss most—comforts or communion with God?
2. Let your life be tangible grace to others: defend, feed, clothe, counsel, protect.
3. Saturate your mind with Scripture so your speech becomes wisdom to your city gate.
4. In suffering, pray honestly like Job but trust God's unseen purposes; unanswered prayer may hide a greater mercy.
5. Form personal disciplines, yet rest in the finished covenant Christ secured, not in your own vows.

Conclusion & Call to Response

Job's words end, but God's answer is coming. When our longings turn to lament, cling to the covenant Christ sealed with His blood. Whether in blessing or in loss, draw near

to God, confess dependence on His sovereign goodness, and live as instruments of His mercy.

Prayer

“Father, deepen our hunger for Your presence. When blessings fade, anchor us in Christ. Forgive us where we have trusted status over communion. Empower us to be eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, fathers to the needy. And until the storm subsides, keep us confident that Your silent wisdom is perfect.”

References & Resources

- Hymns sung: “All I Have Is Christ,” “Grace Greater Than Our Sin,” “Be Thou My Vision,” “There Is a Fountain.”
- Quoted: John MacArthur on mercy vs. fairness; Christopher Ash on unanswered prayer.