

Job Chapters 32-37

Background:

The author for the book of Job is unknown yet it is possible that Job himself wrote it. Other possible candidates are Elihu, Moses and Solomon. If Job himself wrote it, this book could be the earliest book in the Bible. The event occurred very early in time, likely before Abraham. It used sheep, camels, etc. to measure wealth instead of coins. The book was written as narrative history.

The book of Job described God had allowed Satan to attack Job. Job is an example of faithful person as he lost everything important to him yet remained faithful to God. The purpose of this book is to illustrate God's sovereignty and faithfulness during a time of great suffering.

The whole book divided into several main sections:

- a. Chapters 1:1 to 2:10 Job has been tested
- b. Chapter 2:11 to 31 Debate with his three friends including Chapter 28 which is about the topic of wisdom
- c. Chapters 32-37 Elihu spoke (Elihu is Job's friend but not the first 3 friends described on earlier chapters)
- d. Chapters 38 – 42 God spoke and the conclusion.

This writing is about the 3rd section of Job on Elihu. Before Elihu spoke, Job's three friends believed Job has sinned. Job's friend used their theology to interpret Job had sinned. Job's friends help failed when they were unwilling to let experience expand/understand theology.

Some believed that God had set-up or allowed this sequence of talks including Elihu's speech to lead into His final talk on the end chapters.

In typical meetings or debates among people, such as at church or work place, it is wise for us to prepare. It is important for us be skilled of knowing when to talk and how to talk.

Let's see what can we learn from Elihu:

1. Elihu has patience to observe and listen first before speak

Job 32:4-5 stated Elihu waited. He also observed Job's three friends' position and evaluated their weak argument point.

2. Elihu is humble

Job 32:6-7. He was younger and let the old spoke first. Humble person often would be heard easier than someone that is not humble and polite.

3. Elihu speaks when the Spirit prompts

Job 32:8-9, 18. One shall seek God (listen to the Holy Spirit) for wisdom and timing. Is it time and with what manner should I speak?

4. Elihu takes no partiality

Job 32:21 and James 2:1. He did not show partiality nor flatter anyone. We Christians shall be as fair as possible to people. It is often better to focus on the matter and event than people's fault.

5. Elihu guides the group from an endless spiral debate to a new perspective for possible solution.

Job Chapter 35 shows Elihu guided the transition from debate on sin to the real topic of God Himself. A good communicator and wise leader often can break a bad cycle, and provides either a solution or a constructive suggestion to search for a solution.

These 5 things are good for you to consider when you enter into a debate or an intense discussion on a topic. I often used some of those suggestions to prepare myself in meetings at work or church. Hope the example of Elihu helps you be a better communicator and a respected individual.