

**FRIDAY, August 6, 2010:**

Job 40:11-12 *“Disperse the rage of your wrath; look on everyone who is proud, and humble him. Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low; tread down the wicked in their place.”*

Have you ever heard someone say, “They’d better be glad I’m not God!” Maybe you’ve said it yourself. I know we’ve probably all felt like saying it a time or two.

Well in today’s Bible verses that is what God offers. One of Job’s complaints had been that God seemed to be punishing him while allowing the wicked to prosper. Job would complain, “Why don’t you punish them!?”

So God tells him (in my words), “Quit your fussing and do what you think I should do – torch ‘em!”

But here’s the catch, if we demand God’s justice for others, then we must be willing for God’s justice to be extended our way also.

Trust me, no matter how good you are, sooner or later you’re going to cross the line. You will exceed the speed limit, forget to use your turn signal, or fail to come to a complete stop at a stop sign. When you do, do you really want justice?

It is so easy to be hard on others and wonder why God doesn’t zap all those real criminals. But to God, sin is sin; it is all worthy of His justice and judgment. But thanks be to God, He is not only a God of justice, He is a God of mercy...and most days, I’d far rather have mercy than justice.

Bottom line - thank God God’s God and not you! .....or me ☺

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86:15**

**SATURDAY, August 7, 2010:**

Job 40:15 *“Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you...”*

Ever wondered why dinosaurs are not mentioned in the Bible? Try reading Job 40:15-24 and then reconsider. You must remember that the book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible. It appears that Job knew of and maybe even saw dinosaurs!

But the point that I’d like to make today is illustrated in the life of William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson.

He was well known as a great orator, but it seems that one day when his mother was in attendance, that his speech went on a little too long. When asked by her son what she thought of his speech she said, "You missed several good opportunities to sit down."

That is sort of what God is doing with Job. He is reminding Job that even though he may think the world revolves around him, that God also made far bigger things than him. In other words, a little humility is good for all of us. We don’t mean to, but sometimes we act as if the world revolves around us, but God has bigger “fish to fry” and other things going on besides us. It doesn’t mean He doesn’t love us and have a plan for our lives, but it does mean that we shouldn’t miss a good opportunity to sit down and listen and learn.

**SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 13:18**



**Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of August 1, 2010*

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

*What I am thankful for this week:*

MONDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

TUESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDNESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY: \_\_\_\_\_



**MONDAY, August 2, 2010:**

God's Four Questions:  
#1 *Do you refute My wisdom?*

Job 40:8-9 "Would you indeed annul My judgment?"

Over the next four days, I want us to deal with four questions that Job asked throughout the book of Job. God sums up, in His remarks, the real issues behind Job's complaints throughout the last several chapters.

The first issue dealt with is whether or not we are going to trust God's wisdom when going through tough times.

It is easy to talk about God being a good God when things are going well, but it's a little more difficult during tough times. However, one of the signs that we have a close relationship with God is that even when the going gets tough, we do not question God because we **know** Him.

For me, a good example is my relationship with Sonja. Over the years, I've come to know her like I know no one else on the planet. I know her values and I know her heart. So on those occasions when I could be tempted to question Sonja or feel betrayed, I remind myself of who she really is. I know she would do nothing to intentionally harm me or hurt me.

Yet in our early years we would have huge fights over minor things; at the root of our conflict would often be our insecurity in not really knowing each other well enough. As the years went by and we truly came to know and understand each other, those conflicts came fewer and further between.

The same should be true with our Father God. He understands our childlike fears and questions, but He also reminds us that there must come a time that we grow up and learn that He deserves our trust even when there is room to question Him.

**SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:37-40**

**TUESDAY, August 3, 2010:**

God's Four Questions:  
#2 *Do you condemn My justice?*

Job 40:8-9 "Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?"

I heard recently of a man who was about to sing and he introduced his song as follows: "I'd like to share a song with you that the Lord gave me a year ago. And even though he did give it to me, any reproduction of this song in any form without my written consent will constitute an infringement of a copyright law which grants me the right to sue your pants off - praise God!"

I hope that little story was meant to be a joke (you never know now a days!), but it does illustrate one tendency that God knows we struggle with – ***we want to be the exception.***

Rules are great for others; but when it comes time for us to pay the consequences of not following God's rules, we get upset when He doesn't step in and get us off the hook.

We must never forget: when we make bad decisions, grace does not mean we receive a "get out of jail free" card!

That is why it is so important to make W-I-S-E decisions.

**SCRIPTURE: Galatians 6:7**

**WEDNESDAY, August 4, 2010:**

God's Four Questions:  
#3 *Do you doubt My power?*

Job 40:8-9 "Do you doubt My power?"

Some years ago, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas (1898 – 1980) wrote a book entitled "Of Men and Mountains." In it, he showed how his love of mountains, his understanding of nature and his physical endurance resulted from a handicap. His horse fell upon him when he was a boy and crushed his leg. It was thought he might never walk again, but as soon as possible, he began to exercise that leg. It was painful at first but he would grit his teeth and drag that crippled leg along. Eventually he developed the strength to keep up with the other boys and even to outdo them. He would practice running up the side of a mountain, and through working with that injured leg, he developed an interest in mountains and nature.

I thought about that today as I was reflecting on God's question for today. The truth is that even though we know intellectually that God is all-powerful, sometimes in our heart we're tempted to doubt when it seems He doesn't come through for us.

However, today's story reminds us that when God chooses not to use His power to help us, it is because He is trying to help us increase our power, strength and endurance. So today, don't give up; keep pressing on. God's silence is Him saying, "I believe in you!"

**SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:32-34**

**THURSDAY, August 5, 2010:**

God's Four Questions:  
#4 *Do you reject My voice?*

Job 40:8-9 "Or can you thunder with a voice like His?"

Recently I was asked about hearing the voice of God. The person asking said that they had never heard the voice of God.

I assured them, and I assure you, God is not silent. He speaks and He speaks often; but it is so easy to drown out His voice. Remember, God is spirit and those that worship/relate to Him must do so in "spirit and in truth."

So much of the noise of life is about satisfying the flesh and is not based on truth.

My dear friend, do not cut yourself off from the loving and trust-worthy voice of your Father God. He is ever crying out saying, "Come unto me and I will give you rest."

I read recently that you can determine the size of your god by the size of your worry list - the larger the list the smaller the god. But I suspect the real truth is that the larger the worry list the less we've heard from God. The single most important thing you can do today is take the time to truly hear from your loving Father God.  
**SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 4:29-31**