

FRIDAY, June 25, 2010:

Job 32:21 *“Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; nor let me flatter any man.”*

Warren Wiersbe, in his book *Be Joyful*, describes a conversation that took place in a counseling session:

“There seems to be friction in our home,” the concerned wife said to the marriage counselor. I really don’t know what the trouble is.”

“Friction is cause by one of two things,” said the counselor, and to illustrate he picked up two blocks of wood from his desk. “If one block is moving and one is standing still, there’s friction. Or if both are moving but in the opposite directions, there’s friction. Now, which is it?”

There is something to be said about the person who can get to the bottom line of an issue. Today, young Elihu’s prayer addresses this issue. He had sat and listened for days as Job and his three “comforters” had talked on and on about Job’s suffering. When they finally piped down, nothing had really been resolved (Job 32:2-3).

Elihu was sick of it and he was determined to get to the root of the issue. I find it interesting that at the end of the book of Job when God instructed Job to offer up sacrifices for his friends to keep His wrath from falling on them, Elihu was not included in that list.

I think God also prefers people who will not waste time trying to justify themselves or trying to fix people and will instead, with wisdom and love, simply speak the truth.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:15

SATURDAY, June 26, 2010:

Job 33:6 *“Truly I am as your spokesman before God; I also have been formed out of clay.”*

Today’s verse reminds me of the opening remarks of the backwoods preacher who met resistance when asked to speak to an “up-town” congregation. He wisely said, “Remember, the Lord chooses earthen vessels even though He knows that most of them are cracked.”

According to the tradition and protocol of his day, young Elihu should not have been speaking at all to Job; but God had called him. God had put him there for “such a time as this” and he dared to speak up.

The same is true of you. Like Elihu, me and the backwoods country parson, you are probably “cracked” in a few places, but God has put you where you are to be a shining light in the darkness / and remember - the light can shine through the cracks!

So dare to be bold – be loving and wise also – but don’t allow manmade hierarchy, traditions and protocol to intimidate you. Your life is directed by God and He is not impressed by any of the highbrowed ways of man. He is impressed by one of his “cracked” children that dares to trust him and obey.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:7

Note: This week’s devotional is dedicated to Pat Gaten for being at the right place at the right time with the right word. Thanks Pat!



Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of June 20,2010

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, June 21, 2010:

Job 32:6 *“So Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, answered and said: “I am young in years, and you are very old; therefore I was afraid...”*

I read recently of a large dinner party that was organized to pay homage to a distinguished man. He spoke to the host beforehand and asked whether, in response to the eulogy, he wanted him to give his short speech or his long speech. The host, not surprisingly, asked for the short speech.

At the close of the dinner and after all the words of praise, the guest stood up and said, “Thank you!”

The host approached him afterward and asked him what his long speech would have been. “Thank you very much!” he replied. Now that was a wise man! ☺

If I were to ask you the age of the man in the above story, the temptation would be to think of him as an aged and respected gentleman; and that is certainly often the case. However, today’s Bible verse reminds us that young people can also be included among the honored.

Today we are introduced to a young man by the name of Elihu who had a lot of thoughtful things to say.

We’ll look at some of those things this week, but for today, I’d like to leave this assignment with you – take a look at the young people in your life. Are you taking them seriously? Are you willing to learn from them? The Bible clearly finds a place for both young and old to work together. You may be missing a wellspring of insights and encouragement simply because you’ve written someone off because you think they are young.

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31:13

TUESDAY, June 22, 2010:

Job 32:2-3 *“Then the wrath of Elihu was aroused against Job because he justified himself rather than God...also against his three friends because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.”*

Elihu was an angry young man. Having grown up in the ‘60’s and ‘70’s with their riots, campus sit-ins, racial protest, draft dodgers and flag burning, I am familiar with angry young people.

Though they show it in a different way, there are many angry young people alive today. And at the root of much of the anger is disappointment. If an older generation is living a lie or compromising on the truth they confess to believe or if they are building their lives on lesser things, somewhere along the line young people figure that out. They see through the hypocrisy. They awaken to the emptiness of materialism. Bottom line, they feel betrayed.

Today, I feel that I am writing specifically to someone. Maybe your home has become a battleground with angry teenagers. Perhaps you are in a position of authority over youth in a different venue...all I know is that I sense the Holy Spirit seeking to soften your heart.

Determine to be a peacemaker / apologize if you must. Reexamine your life to see if there are inconsistencies there. The young people in your life deserve your B-E-S-T / God will help you.

SCRIPTURE: Malachi 4:6 (Please read!)

WEDNESDAY, June 23, 2010:

Job 32:8 *“But there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.”*

Today, I’d like for you to remember that you are more than an animal. You are more than a body. You are a living, eternal spirit made in the image of God.

Young Elihu reminded his older companions that he had a right at the table, not because of age or position, but because God had given him understanding. The same is true for you. As you continue to develop your relationship with God, you are tapping into the eternal, all wise and all-powerful Creator God! Expect insight; expect God to reveal to you things you need to know. Expect doors to open that in your own strength you could not open. Bottom line, be encouraged today; face this day with hope and optimism. You do not have to “earn your stripes” as a Christian with tenure or some other manmade standard. You belong to God. He is your Father and He loves you. And you can bet your last dollar that He is not going to let you down!

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:20

THURSDAY, June 24, 2010:

Job 32:11 *“Indeed I waited for your words, I listened to your reasonings, while you searched out what to say.”*

During the famous debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas, Douglas accused Lincoln of being “two-faced.” Lincoln’s response is classic. He said, “If I had another face, do you think I would wear this one?”

Lincoln had that special way about him of destroying his enemies. The way he did this was by making his enemies his friends.

It is so easy for life to turn into a shouting match. Our focus becomes about being heard and being right. But young Elihu teaches us an important principle today. First, seek to understand. Like Douglas, our conversations with people can become caustic and bitter if we are not careful. Refuse to go down that road. Take the highroad by listening / really listening ... and you will discover that people will begin to trust you and appreciate you and will then be willing to hear your heart as well.

Remember, the goal today is not to “fix people” or “prove your point.” The goal is to touch people with the love of God / only He can change them.

Remember the “T” in giving your B-E-S-T? It says, “I will give my best to those God brings into my life by touching them with the love of God.” One of the best ways to do this is to listen.

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 4:5-6