

And So It Ends ... Job 42

Have you ever watched a very long involved movie? As you near the end, you know that things will resolve themselves. The good guys will win. The bad guys will receive their just deserve. Everything turns out fine.

And yet, you're left hanging. What's the point? What's the take-away? Where do we go from here?

In one respect, the book of Job is about conflict and resolution.

- God and Satan are in conflict.
- Satan and Job are in conflict.
- Job and his wife are in conflict.
- Job and God are in conflict.
- Job and his three friends are in conflict.
- Job has conflict with the young Elihu.
- The three friends and Elihu have conflict with one another.
- God has conflict with the three friends.

This is a conflicting book, wouldn't you say? At the end, however, everything resolves. Yet, you leave this book asking, "What does this mean for me?"

As you read a plain condensed version of a conclusion, you ask yourself, "What is the significance of this book for our lives?" Let's see if I can garner three lessons to share with you as the true story of Job closes.

1. We live in spiritual conflict each day of our lives. [Ephesians 6:10-20](#) describes the spiritual warfare that we encounter every day. Satan, determined to steal, kill and destroy ([John 10:10](#)), is out to take God's glory from Him. Because we the only creatures created in the image of God, we are Satan's primary taken as he seeks to steal God's glory ([Genesis 1:26-28](#)). However, we will be victorious because God will have the final victory ([1 Corinthians 15:57](#)).
2. We will always have conflict with one another over our understanding of God because our background, experience, gender and age function as filters through which we view God. However, Our final authority as to our understanding of God must be His revealed Word ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)). We must approach that Word with care and humility ([Matthew 13:52](#); [2 Corinthians 4:2](#); [1 Timothy 4:12-16](#); [2 Timothy 2:15](#)). We must approach each other with grace and humility ([Romans 12:3, 16](#)). Paul's remarks further down in Romans 12 instruct us to "let love be genuine," "love one another with brotherly affection," and "outdo one another in showing honor" ([12:9-10](#)). When we try to understand how God is working in our lives and the life of our local church, we must bring these tools to the table.

**As iron sharpens irons
so a person sharpens his friends.
-- Solomon**

3. We must be willing to admit that we do not know God as well as we think we know Him. This was Job's dilemma. He obeyed God's command, making sure to live a holy life in God's presence. He was the family priest making sacrifices for His children in case they faltered in their exuberance of celebration. His upbringing taught him the theory of Divine retribution, which worked until it didn't work for him. Job 42:3, 5-6 gives us Job's conclusion after he survived the battle for his soul.

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
 things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ...
⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
 but now my eye sees you;
⁶therefore I despise myself,
 and repent in dust and ashes."

Job did not understand God at the outset of this conflict. He did not know God. He did not understand how God worked in His universe. He did not understand how God worked with men. He had only heard of God but did not know God personally. His knowledge of God was academic. "Now my eye sees you." He repented of his foolishness.

Job, before this conflict, practiced all the correct religious forms. His heart was right with God in this regard. But he did not know God. After God revealed Himself to Job, Job could say, "Now my eyes see you."

On an occasion in Judea, Jesus came to Jericho. A blind man sat along the roadside begging as Jesus passed by ([Luke 18:35-43](#)). As the blind man realized that Jesus was passing by, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Of course, the crowd tried to silence him, but he refused to keep silent. Instead, his appeals for help rang louder and louder. Finally, Jesus stopped and asked the man what he wanted from Him. His words were simple. "Lord, let me recover my sight."

May that be our prayer as we walk through this life, no matter whether we are at the start, the middle or the end of life. "Lord, let me recover my sight." Or, as the Greeks that came to Philip requested, "Sir, we wish to Jesus" ([John 12:21](#)).