

When God is Silent Part 2

By Christopher Lyons

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Sort of an informal session. So, you know, feel free to as people walk in, to direct them to a seat, or if you need to leave early or feel free to do that. I'm not uptight about things like that.

Let me just say I have our minister to students with us, and I was going to introduce him this morning, but he's gone on over to the youth specialties conference at the Los Angeles airport. But he just wanted to mention to any of you who might be interested in a summer intern position with us up in the Bay Area of San Francisco, that he'd like to have your name, address, telephone number, any information you want to give to him about you, we'll provide you a place to stay, a decent, inadequate salary for the summer, send you off to high school camp at Hume Lake or junior high or things like that.

But if any of you are interested, our minister to students would be interested in speaking to you. I recognize that time is going by more rapidly than I expected. It would. I expect it to have covered more material than I did yesterday. And by the very nature of this conference, many of you won't be with us tomorrow, so I'll try to keep moving. I appreciate it so very much.

The story that Dr. Heston has shared with us this morning of her daughter and the little baby with spina bifida and of her returning from the Soviet Union and finding that the tests had all proved negative and they weren't able to find anything. And I will have to. And I want to start from here.

I will have to say that in the course of my ministry of about 35 years, I have seen some of the mighty acts of God. I've seen some wonderful healings in answer to prayer.

But what specifically I want to deal with in our time is that some of us have a fundamental problem with God because there are times when we pray and somebody is not healed. There are times when we're involved with a family, and it just seems that we get deeper and deeper into asking the question, why do we not see the mighty acts of God in this situation? I think years ago of a Buick. Its motto was something to believe in. A Buick is something that you can believe in.

You can run your hands on a shiny surface. You can open the door and look in and smell the newness of the car. You can kick the tires. You can slam the door and hear it go thunk and you wonder, why is it that there are times when why doesn't God just go thunk? Why doesn't he make it easier for us to believe in Him? And maybe there are times when, like Elijah, we have seen the mighty acts of God.

The fire has fallen from heaven and has consumed not only the sacrifice on the altar, but the altar and all of the wood and all of the water around it there on Mount Carmel. Remember, he had made the long, long journey just about running all the way down to Mount Sinai, Mount Horeb, the Mount of God. And there he just desperately needed to meet God and to hear from God. Feel free to walk right in and find yourself a place to set this as sort of an informal session.

I desperately needed to hear from God. And remember, he was there on the mountain. And suddenly there was a mighty earthquake. And everything was rocking and rolling and boulders

were crashing down the side of the mountain. And here's a God a man can preach here's a God a man can to believe in. But remember, God was not in the earthquake. Then after the earthquake, there was the mighty rushing wind. Everything just blowing all over the place so that Elijah just had to hold on for dear life. And once again, here's a God for a man with hair on his chest, a God that you can be proud of.

And God wasn't in the wind. Then after the wind the fire, some of you read about the fire that consumed multimillion dollar homes up in Santa Barbara this last year, the mighty power of a forest fire. And once again, you know, a God a man can believe in. But God was not in the fire. And then after all of that, a still small voice. And God was in the still small voice. I don't know about you, but aren't there times when that's embarrassing, you know, God, if you're God, why don't you make more of a show of yourself?

Meet a big, tall, rugged guy, and he's got a little voice, maybe even just a little too high. It's almost just a little embarrassing. And here is God, the still small voice. And yet most of you who are here this morning, as Christians are here because some time in your life, whether it was in the quietness of your room or whether it was in a great sports stadium with a well known evangelist. But at some time in your life, you heard that still small voice of God. And that voice broke you up. You couldn't rest, you couldn't eat, you couldn't sleep.

You couldn't get away from that still small voice until finally you said, God, I give up all that. I am all that I have, all that I ever hope to be. I give to you, come into my life and save me for Jesus sake. And yet what we have to admit, there are also times in our life and in our experience

when we desperately need to hear from God. And we don't even hear that still small voice. And that's what we're studying in our session together.

So turn in your Bible once again to the Job 2. And remember, we excuse me, I didn't even get that far yesterday the Job 1, Job 10. And I'm going to try to move along a little more quickly, I promise today. But we left it with Satan throwing back the challenge to God. Of course Job loves you. Of course Job serves you. Look at all you've done for him. And you know he'd throw that challenge to you. Of course you love God. Here you are in a major university, preparing for a career, preparing for a lifetime that's going to be successful. You're going to have your BMWs, you're going to have your big homes, you're going to have prestige and position in the community.

Of course, that kid at Biola loves you. Of course he serves you. Of course she's committed to you, for you have built a hedge around her and not only have you built a hedge around her, but all of her family and everything that she has. And it's interesting. And this is where we left it yesterday. God does not deny that fact. Oh, young person, you can rejoice in that if you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you're in God's covenant. And God has promised to be your God and the God and father of your family, the God and father of your children.

And he has built a hedge around you. And nothing can get to you. And nothing can happen to you. But that, first of all, God, for some reason or God, for some purpose, allows it. And this is what he does here. He allows Satan to touch the possessions of Job. And I'm not going to go into every detail, it would take forever. But in Job 1, the Lord responds to Satan in Job 1:12. Very

well then everything he has in your hands put on the man him, but on the man himself, do not lay a finger. By the way, have you ever examined your own commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ?

What do they say so often in business? Every man has his price. Howard Hughes said that if you've seen the spruce goose or you've heard about this man who lived the last years of his life, despite all of his billions in some kind of grotesque lifestyle. But Howard Hughes said Every man has his price, or else there wouldn't be people like me who's made his billions, he's made his position. Do you have a price, or have you really said, Lord Jesus, all that I am, all that I have, all that I ever hoped to be belongs to you.

Satan is saying in a sense, every man has a price. And so you read about the various experiences now that poor old Job has to go through. The Sabeans down in 1:13-15, come and take away all of the livestock. In 1:16, fire, the fire of God falls from the sky and burns up the sheep and the servants. Over in 1:17, the Chaldeans come with a rating party and they take off some more of his possessions. 1:18 and following a mighty wind sweeps in from the desert.

And as Job's sons and daughters are celebrating somebody's birthday, the house collapses and they're all gone. And overnight, Job has lost everything. Now I want to tell you that as a pastor, I've seen some people give up their faith in Jesus Christ because of some reversal in their life, maybe in their career or maybe in their health. Some people's relationship to Christ has been so tenuous and so delicate that just some kind, some small kind of reversal and everything has changed. But, wow, what this is like World War II all over again.

Remember World War II around the world, something like 75 million people lost their lives. What a disaster through the world. Something like World War II. Oh, what a disaster. And the earthquake that hit our area just about a year ago up in the Bay Area. And as I read this, I don't see that storms, every earthquake, every hurricane, every problem is from God's hand. Some of it is just built into a fallen universe. You know, you get the flu. And that's the very reason the Book of Job is written. To let us understand that, to let us come to know that every sickness, every problem is not because of some sin in our life, something that we've done wrong, and God is zapping us.

As long as you're in the world, you're going to have suffering. As long as you're in the world, you're going to have tribulation. But at the same time, you read this and you recognize that sometimes a disaster, such as a raiding party of the Chaldeans or a fire that's fallen out of the sky, or sometimes some mighty wind or some earthquake, is something that God has specifically allowed for a purpose. It's what all things work together for good to those who love the Lord.

That doesn't mean that all things are good. I sort of compare it to making a cake. You throw in some flour and you throw in some cooking oil and beat up a couple of eggs and throw in some baking powder and shove it in 500 degree oven for an hour or so. And you pull it out. And what have you got? A delicious cake. But, you know, there's not one ingredient that went into that cake that taken all by itself, is great, delicious. Eating the raw eggs, trying to get down a couple of cups of flour. What is it? A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down, but not a couple of cupfuls of sugar. But what is it?

It's the all things in the Providence of God. That doesn't mean that there aren't going to be some very hurtful things that come into your life. There aren't going to be some difficult experiences that come into your life where you would be ready to throw up your hands and say, Why God? And as I said yesterday morning in the introduction, the high school student said, if there is a God. Excuse me, the college student who said, if there is a God, he's got a lot to answer for.

Well, the great thing we're going to say from the Book of Job is God doesn't give us any answers. God doesn't think that he owes you any explanations. God doesn't think that he owes you any answers. So there are going to be difficult experiences. And one of the mysteries of the Book of Job, it seems that God even uses evil. God even uses bad things to his glory to accomplish his purposes.

And so all of this has happened to Job. And Satan has sneered and said, you just let me touch Job's BMW, and you'll find out whether he loves you or not. But what do we read in 1:20. At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said, God, I love you more than everything that I possess, more than everything that I have. I love you more than my family.

What is it? Yesterday afternoon in our session, we talked about the fact that a person has to have priorities in life. And your first priority is love God with all your heart, mind, and being. Your second priority is a priority to love your wife and your family. If you're not married, you'd better be working on your love relationship with your mom and dad. Maybe they're not Christians. Maybe they're not as mature as you are. Maybe you've had to bring them up, but that's all right

before God, and you're never going to be the husband you ought to be unless you've got a right relationship with your dad.

You're never going to be the wife you ought to be unless you've been working with everything within your capabilities of making things right between yourself and your family. So that's the second responsibility. That's the second priority of every person. Our right relationship to his wife and to his family. The third is the right relationship to the team that you're working with. Nothing is ever done. Oh, well, maybe somebody who is in raw research in computers or something like that might be working all by himself. But almost nothing is ever done in total isolation. Have a responsibility to your team.

And then fourthly, you have a responsibility. You have a priority on the work that God has given you to do in the world. People have nervous breakdowns. Why? Because they take the fourth priority and make it number one. They live for their work, they live for their career and everything else is messed up. No matter what has happened to Job, he loves his family. He loved the career, the possessions that he had. But he falls to the ground and worships God and says, God, you're number one in my life. I've lost everything. But I still have you.

I remember having to say that to a Christian family. Their only child, their little child had died. There was a bitterness that came into their life. They wouldn't come to church. They didn't want to see me. I had to work hard to make the appointment to come and see their family. And I had to get honest with them as they expressed their bitterness and their readiness to give up their faith in God. I had to say, look, you've lost so much. You've lost your little son. Are you going to lose

God also? And I'm not all that smart, but somehow God used that in their life over the next couple of days to challenge them and to make them realize, yeah, we have lost.

It seems that we've lost the purpose and the joy of living. But we can't lose God also in the process. So Job says, naked, I came from my mother's womb and naked, I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord God. I'm going to praise you anyway. Have you ever been in that kind of experience where you're standing there with tears, uncontrollable tears in your eyes. But just saying, God, I don't understand. But I love you. I love you.

Well, let's go on into the Job 2. I bet you thought I'd never get there. But here it happens all over again. I won't have to go into all of the details. But once again, God sends out the message and by command performance all of his emissaries throughout the entire universe. We're not just talking about a couple of billion angels who are responsible for the Earth here. God has called in everybody from his universe. There's going to be a reporting session. I'm sure that Satan didn't want to come back again, but he had no choice.

He's commanded into the presence of God. Once again we see the question asked, where have you come from? He gives the answer from roaming through the Earth and going back and forth in it. And we talked yesterday about the restlessness of Satan and the restlessness that comes into the lives of those who do Satan's will and who follow Satan. I think of what is it the Psalm 16 that says their sorrows shall be multiplied, who hasten after other gods? And what is it about

these other gods? They demand such loyalty. They'll keep us out till 03:00 04:00 in the morning, working on drugs and working on pornography and working on our own insecurities.

And it seems that no demand is too great. There's a restlessness that comes from following these gods. Unfortunately, sometimes the rest that the Lord Jesus Christ gives us if we're not careful turns into lethargy and you wonder, what is this? Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after other gods.

But God, why am I so slow to do your will? Why is there, like always tomorrow? Why isn't there that same kind of haste and commitment that I see? The commitment of a drug addict or the commitment of somebody who's into all sorts of foul stuff, et cetera. Why am I so slow? But Satan has been roaming through the Earth, going back and forth in it like a lion seeking whom he may devour.

Some of you came up yesterday to let me know that you love cats. And if I hurt your feelings, I feel badly. But, you know, Satan, I'll repeat it again. Just the same like a cat playing with a mouse like that cat playing with a chipmunk, young people, Satan will play with you for years. He'll let you go. You'll feel like I'm frayed. And then he pounces on you.

And he's waiting for the moment of maximum opportunity. He'll let something stay in your life till you're 60 years of age because he wants to take you out. Your wife, maybe your oldest son, that he loses respect for you and respect for the Christ whom you've taught him about and served. And I've seen it. I've seen it.

He will let something stay in your life until that moment of absolute embarrassment for you, for the cause of Jesus Christ, for the church of Jesus Christ. And it will never, never be any easier to get free than it is right now. In fact, some of you psychology majors know there are certain things that can come into a person's life, certain traumatic experiences that paralyze you that if you haven't come to grips with by the time you're out of college, you're probably going to be crippled with some of those emotions, crippled by some of those problems for the rest of your life.

I know it is not easy. They even be embarrassing. Some of you have been so traumatized by something that happened to you in your childhood that you have just promised yourself and promised God you'll never share it with anybody else. But friend, it will never be any less embarrassing than it is right now. Find a counselor here on your campus, somebody who loves you, somebody who's not, who got to be all shocked, et cetera. Somebody who knows what it is to be free himself or herself. And it'll never be easier than it is right now. But I'm preaching. I'm not teaching.

So let me get back to Job 2. And Satan sneers again. Once again, God says, Have you considered my servant Job? And once again, I'm sure that Job would say my name, why did my name have to come up? Why couldn't God have brought somebody else's name up? What in the world? And once again, Satan just sneers Job 2:4, skin for skin, a man will give all he has for his own life. You stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he'll curse you to your face. And once again see Satan has absolutely no power. All power belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan has no power in your life, but that God allows it. And you may feel that you're going through

some experience, some difficulty that even God doesn't know about. But he does. And you're never alone.

And so God allows it. And so 2:7, Satan goes out from the presence of the Lord and afflicts Job with painful sores, from the sole of his feet to the top of his head. What do I see here? But Satan will go absolutely as far as God allows him to go. God says he can touch his body. And so what does Satan do? Why from the top of Job's head to the very soles of his feet, he's covered with some kind of disease. Scholars feel that it's some form of elephantitis. But have you ever had a zit? Of course you have, man. It can burn and it's hot and it's painful, probably even a little embarrassing to a high schooler, especially if it hits you right on the end of your nose at Christmas time. And everybody's calling you Rudolph the Red nose Reindeer or something like that. That's nothing compared to a boil.

And then imagine having two boils or imagine having boils and you can't sleep, you can't eat, you can't get away from it. And it's from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. And I'm not here to give you a lesson in medicine as much as to point out that Satan will go absolutely as far as he can go. In fact, I think this is why Paul says, don't give Satan a foothold in your life. Don't give him a place to stand. Do you understand how important it is to be obedient? You give Satan even a place to stand. And by the way, folks feel free to come on in and find a place to sit if you want.

This is an informal session, but you give Satan a place to stand in your life. And what the very next thing is, he starts to make a clearing and then having made a clearing, if you haven't dealt

with that, he'll take all the old rubbish that he's cleared away and he'll throw up a shack. And then he'll start working to turn that shack into a house. And then he'll take that house and he'll turn it into a castle. And then he'll take that castle and he'll turn it into a fortress until you, as a Christian, yourself will say, oh, wretched person that I am, who will ever deliver me from this kind of bondage. It's so important. Don't give him any advantage in your life. If there's some bad attitude.

If there's some habit that the world would laugh at, but the spirit of God is convicting you about, get rid of it. Don't give him any advantage in your life. Well, it seems now that Job has lost everything but a nagging wife. And in 2:9, and I don't say that as a male chauvinist because I have just an unbelievable wife. But men, I know you're macho, you're strong and you're tough and you're going to be the head of your home, obviously. But it's amazing how dependent we men are on our wives for support. And when you've been knocked around and man, you can't work in a job very long, even in a church without getting knocked around, it's just amazing how you go home and you're just restored. And I'm not just talking sexually, although I'm talking about that too. God created sex, man. And he said, it's good, but I wasn't brought to speak on that subject either.

But even though the man is supposed to be the head of the home, what? It's the wife who's the influencer in the home. You never see a boxer on television saying, Hi, dad. It's always what? Hi, mom. Hi, mom. I'll be home soon, mom. And it's just amazing the power that a woman has in the home. So I didn't say that just as some kind of dumb male chauvinist how much more difficult it is when there's just something wrong in the relationship and there isn't the support

there and spiritually. And again, I could get into marriage. And why you should never marry outside your faith and stuff like that. But 2:9, his wife said to him, Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die.

And he replied, and I think she was suggesting suicide as I understand the passage. I think she was saying, hey, jump off a cliff, find the Golden Gate Bridge. What's the most popular spot in America for suicide up where I live, the Golden Gate Bridge. Go to a bridge and jump. In 2:10, good counsel, 2:10. Don't get me wrong. I don't mean that. Hey, that is terrible counsel. You still have to stand before God. 2:10, you are talking like a foolish woman. Notice he didn't say she is a foolish woman. You are talking like a foolish woman. Hey, underline this in your Bible, shall we accept good from God and not trouble? Oh, young people. God has so blessed you. I look out and you're all so beautiful and you're so handsome and young and tough and strong in a major university.

And do you realize the blessing of God upon your life? And I'm sure some of you are here because you've got a mom and dad who love you and are supporting you aunts and uncles who send you birthday gifts and et cetera, et cetera. Shall we accept good from the hand of God and not trouble? Trouble is going to come. As I told you yesterday, Henry David Thoreau said, most people live their lives in quiet desperation. And John Powers, who was the right hand man. You're too young to remember John F. Kennedy, but I come from Massachusetts. John F. Kennedy President of the United States. And someone said it at his assassination, it was like a piece of driftwood sinking a great aircraft carrier like the enterprise. Unbelievable. I remember that day when all had happened and John Powers, the friend of the President, said you wouldn't

be Irish if you didn't believe that life would get you sooner or later. But us, I guess we thought we had more time.

Shall we accept good from the hand of God and not evil? In all of this, we read at the end of 2:11, at the end of 2:10. In all of this, Job did not sin in what he said. Now let me say this because I really haven't answered the question of why is God silent? Where is God when we need him? And I know that some of you by your schedule won't be here tomorrow and we only have 15 minutes left. So let me summarize, although I hope to go and look at some of the conversation here today. But would you note as we go on to study the Book of Job, that all of this has taken place in heaven. All of this is a conversation that has taken place in the eternal. And now Job has to live it out.

He has to live out the experience and never once is he let in on the fact of what has been taking place. He'll be asking the question why? And his three friends will more or less be giving him what for and telling him why he's going through all of this problem, et cetera. And God never lets Job in. Even in the conclusion of the book, we're going to now go into this epic poem which you could compare to the Iliad and the Odyssey by Homer. Or you could compare to the Idols of the King by Tennyson. We're going to go into this epic poem. The rest of the book is poetry.

It's almost like a play that's taking place. In fact, who was the playwright? Any of you drama students? Was it Archibald MacLeish who wrote the Broadway play JB that was so popular and is based on this story. Any drama students here? I think that's it. Don't take it as gospel, but I think that's it. But there is sort of a play now that takes place as Job has to live out this difficult

experience of having lost his children, lost his home, lost his possessions, lost his health, and wondering why, what is God doing, what's happening? And God never lets him in on the contest, this heavenly contest that seems to be taking place. And you know that as we study the Book of Job, Job himself is going to say, if only I could stand before God, I have questions that I want to ask of God. I want to confront God with certain questions and over and over again in the Book of Job, the question is asked that some of you will ask in your lifetime why God? I don't understand. And God never answers that question.

Rather, we come to the end of the Book of Job. And for those of you who won't be with us tomorrow, there's a series of 60 questions that God asks Job. All right, Job, you are so intelligent. You know everything. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the Earth? Where were you when I gave the orders to the planets to begin to spin in their orbit? Where were you when the animals were created? You know everything. You're as wise as the infinite God. And you know, of course, the answer to that whole question of this silence of God and why we ask the questions, and if I were you, God, I would do such and such. And we'll talk about that more tonight in our evening session that God is just saying you don't have all the information.

You're not infinite enough. There is so much you do not know. There is so much that you do not understand. So before I get to that point and concluding this morning, let's go into Job's three friends for the Book of Job is really made up of a series of speeches. You have Eliphaz, the Temanite, Bildad, the Shuhite. Pardon this, but I have to say it, you know, if ever you're in a trivia, pursuit type of question, and somebody asked you the shortest man in the Bible, it's Bildad, the Shuhite. I guess I shouldn't have said it.

And Zophar, the Naamathite. And by the way, this has gone on for a long time. This isn't something that's just struck Job, and it's like the 24 hours flow that seems to be going around Northern California right now. This is something that seems to have gone on for some period of time because these men live at a distance from each other, and the word has gotten to them. And then they've been in touch with each other.

And they've made arrangements to come and be with Job. And so it's taken some time to get the messages back and forth and for them to travel. And so we may well be talking of something here in the Book of Job. That isn't a 24 hour period, but that's taken place over the course of months. As now these three friends come, they set out from their home. They meet together by agreement, 2:12. When they saw him from a distance, they couldn't recognize their friend. And they did what was customary in that day at a funeral. They more or less held a funeral for Job.

Job, you're a dead man. They began to weep aloud. They tore their robes. They sprinkled dust on their head. And then what? They did the most comforting thing they could possibly have done. They sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights, and no one said a word. You know it's when they finally started opening their mouth to defend God or to explain God that they were no longer a comfort. And I know you're young, and most of you won't be involved in hospital situations, visiting friends, or maybe the death of a great grandmother or something like that. But one of the most important things you can ever do for a friend who's hurting, it doesn't even have to be a physical hurting, go and be with that friend.

Something happened in our family back a year or two ago, and it just felt to us like my world was falling apart. And one of my best buddies got on an airplane and flew up to just spend the day with me. He wanted to take me out to lunch. He wanted to let me know that he loved me. He wanted to pray with me. And of all the things that we were going through. Boy I still remember that friend and the cost and getting on an airplane and coming and spending the day with me. And you have to be sensitive. I had a friend who was dying of cancer and it's humiliating, humiliating to go through some of those experiences.

And she talked to some of her friends on the telephone and she said, I want to see you, but I don't want you to see me. I look so bad. And one of her friends made arrangements. I want to be with you. Turn out all the lights. Let me just sit there in the darkness. But let me just be with you one more time. Just be sensitive to people. But do what you can to go and be with that person. We've had situations where a person is sick and somebody's going in and giving them back rub. Somebody else has gone in and laid hands on him and try to heal him. Somebody else has brought him a Coke or a Big Mac and held a bucket while he well, but I think God's people ought to be sensitive. Remember Dr. Hesternist's illustration this morning how cruel we are to one another and somebody makes a birthday cake.

An insensitive parent says, look at all the fly specs all over it. Ask God to make you a sensitive person. Jesus was sensitive. But secondly, let me say that's the most important thing that you can do go and be with a friend. And sometimes we don't go to be with a friend because we don't know what to say. Great, shut up. The absolute worst thing you can do is exactly what most of us try to do. We go and we try to explain God. If the Book of Job is written for any reason, it's

written just for that reason to say, you don't have all the facts. You don't know everything that's going on. For Heaven's sake, don't try to explain God. Oh, well, maybe God took your little son so that people will hear the gospel preached at the funeral. Friends, that does not help. That does not comfort.

God allowed you to come down with cancer so you could spend 24 hours a day in your room and think of all the time you'll have for prayer and getting closer to God. That does not help. All things work together for good. Yeah, but that doesn't help. Just as I said a few moments ago, the all things mean that what there's a lot of hurtful. It's like eating a cup of flour. It's like trying to swallow a bunch of raw eggs. So whatever. Don't try to explain God. Or then, of course, there's the second thing, because those of us who have seen the mighty acts of God want to defend God.

Well, God really has power to raise up your son and who's dying of leukemia. And really, if you would just have a little more faith if you just believed more. Here's this person, it's my fault. And my son. And I've seen that happen. Four girls in the family, beautiful girls and an eight year old son. When I met that eight year old son, he had a football jersey on, and I didn't realize it was a wig. Sammy Rugged. What a rugged little kid. And he had leukemia. He couldn't go to school. We prayed with that family. We loved that family. And we stood with him all the way through the death of that little boy. I was there in the hospital room at Children's Hospital when the little boy died. And you can't lay a guilt trip on the family defending God. Oh, if you only had more faith, God would raise him up.

Now, I know some of us come from powerful backgrounds where we have seen God respond to faith. And I don't want to put that down, but I just want to urge you to be sensitive. Be there with a friend, doing what you can do. Maybe it's just answering the telephone. Maybe it's just welcoming other people who are coming. Be there with a friend. Don't try to explain God. Don't try to defend God. So it's finally when these guys open their mouths that we get into a lot of trouble. Well, let's go on into the Job 3, and this is where we'll have to close today. But Job does not sin.

Job has said, Shall we accept good from the hand of God, but not evil? The only thing that we do find him doing is he just says, I wish that I had never been born. What's the date of my birthday? Cursed be that day. Have you ever felt like that? I wish I had never been born. I'll go down to the 3:25. What I had feared has come upon me. What I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace. I have no quietness, but only turmoil. And maybe you, as a young person, there's certain things. Boy, I hope it never happens to me. I hope when I get married, nothing ever happens where my wife gets sick or where something happens to one of my youngsters. Like, what was it? C. Everett Coope, who was surgeon general of the United States. Tremendous Christian man. What a testimony. What a powerful witness he had as surgeon general. But remember his son, who was a college student at Dartmouth College.

His son was climbing in the White Mountains, one of the most beautiful places in the east, and fell and died. We stopped to think of some of the worst experiences that we could ever think of and say, I hope it never happens to me and young person, I hope it doesn't. I'm not here to discourage any of you. But I am here as a pastor who has worked with people now for over 35

years. And I know that some of you in this auditorium before life is over, we'll go through some awesome experiences. Do you love God?

Do you say this morning all that I am, all that I have, all that I ever hoped to be Jesus Christ?

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of changing. And I may not always hear Him, but what did they find written on a prisoner of war death camp in Nazi Germany and World War II?

Somebody who had died in the gas chambers just a few hundred feet away had written, I believe in the sun even when I cannot see it. I believe in love, even when I cannot feel it. I believe in God, even when God is silent. Do you have that kind of commitment? God never changes. Every good gift that you will ever know in your life comes from Him.

And I cannot promise that in life you will not know some hurtful experience. But even so, can you say this morning, all that I am, all that I have, all that I ever hope to be belongs to you, Lord Jesus. Let's pray. Oh, God. Thank you for this day. Thank you for the beauty of this day. Thank you for this school. Thank you for our moms and dads and aunts and uncles and loved ones who stand with us and encourage us as we're studying and as we're here in college. Thank you for the sharp looking clothes we have to wear. Thank you for the books that we can read. Every good gift has come from your hand and Father, we love you. We love you so very much. The giver of all of these gifts that we say, even if there is an earthquake, even if there is a war, even if as we come up on the end of the age, there is tremendous persecution that breaks out on us as Christians and we are stripped of everything. We love You, Lord, and we want to serve you in Jesus name. Amen God bless you all.