



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 6



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DAY SIX

Job 10 - 13

When You Need to Say It Out Loud

There are seasons in life when being polite about your pain stops working. When the careful, composed prayers you've been offering feel thin and hollow, and something in you needs to say the real thing. Job is in one of those seasons. And today, across four chapters, he stops being careful.

God would rather have your honest rage than your performed peace. He can work with real. He cannot work with pretend.

Chapter 10 opens mid-cry. Job is not warming up slowly. He tells God straight: I loathe my own life. He asks the questions that have been building since chapter 1 - why did You make me only to crush me? Did You bring me out of the womb just for this? He is not being dramatic. He is being honest. And there is a difference.

What strikes me in this chapter is that Job does not stop believing in God. He argues with Him. He accuses Him. But he never turns away. Every question is addressed directly upward - to the One he cannot shake, even when he wants to.

- You cannot be angry at someone you no longer believe in. Job's fury is its own kind of faith.

And here is what God does in response to all of it: He stays. He does not strike Job silent. He does not withdraw His presence. He lets the man speak. For chapters. Every raw, unfiltered, undignified word of it and God stays.

The God who holds the universe together is not unsettled by your unravelling. Bring Him the real thing.

Then Zophar arrives. Of the three friends, Zophar is the harshest. Where Eliphaz was at least gentle in his wrongness and Bildad offered some poetry with his bad theology, Zophar is blunt to the point of cruelty. He tells Job: you are getting less than you deserve. Your sin is even greater than your suffering. If you could only see yourself clearly, you would stop arguing and start repenting.

Job's response in chapter 12 is controlled and devastating. He doesn't shout. He matches Zophar's confidence and raises it. He says: I know everything you're telling me. I am not less informed than you. I have eyes. I have lived. Do you think wisdom was born with you?

“Who does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?”

*In his hand is the life of every creature and the
breath of all mankind.”*

Job 12:9–10

Job is not a man who has lost his theology. He knows exactly who God is. What he cannot reconcile is how a God he knows to be sovereign and good can be allowing what he is experiencing. That is not a lack of faith. That is faith pushing hard against mystery.

Knowing who God is does not make suffering painless. But it does mean you have somewhere to bring the pain.

Chapter 13 is where Job crosses a line that would make most of us nervous on his behalf. He says he wants to speak to God directly - not through his friends, not through their interpretations, not through their framework. He wants God Himself. And he is willing to take the risk of what that encounter might cost him.

“Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.”

- Job 13:15

Read that slowly. Though He slay me. This is not a man who has made peace with his suffering and found a place of easy acceptance. This is a man who is looking at the possibility that God might destroy him — and saying: even then, I will not let go. Even then, I will hope. Even then, I will speak.

That is not the faith of a man who has never doubted. That is the faith of a man who has doubted everything and chosen God anyway. That kind of faith cannot be manufactured. It can only be forged.

Whatever you are walking through right now - whatever has made you quiet when you used to be certain - Job 13:15 is for you. You are allowed to say the real thing to God. You are allowed to bring the full weight of what you don't understand. And you are allowed to say: though He slay me, yet will I hope.

Speak this over yourself today:

I will not perform a faith I don't feel.

*I will bring God the real thing — the confusion, the grief,
the questions that don't have easy answers.*

Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him.

TOMORROW - Day 7 Job 14–16

Job is about to say something in chapter 14 that sounds like it was written by a man who has seen past the horizon of his own death. A desperate hope, spoken from the ash heap, that echoes all the way to the resurrection. Come back tomorrow.

Day 6 of 365



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