

SERMON NOTES 2/7/26



We are righteous children of God who are invited into a revelation of the nearness of God, not a distant God that we earn presence by our practice.

1. In **Job 35**, Elihu accuses Job of being self-righteous - Self Righteousness is being confident in one's own right standing based off works and service rather than the Lord's doing. Practice without relationship is meaningless (**Matthew 23:1-4**). Where it is good to know the ways of God and the practices, we must pursue God in such a way that produces practices rather than practicing to earn presence.
2. Where Job struggles is that he knew he was righteous, but he couldn't reason his loss with the justice of God, as if he earned the loss. Where Elihu accuses Job of identifying as righteous a bad thing, it is in fact ok to know you are righteous. Righteousness is an inheritance from God (**Isaiah 54:17**). You are a son/daughter redeemed and have an inheritance of the beloved identity of righteousness by way of God's work and not your own.
3. **Galatians 4:6** tells us that Holy Spirit causes us to cry out "Abba Father". Abba means daddy, an expression that points to an intimate relationship with Father God. Where we miss it, is we separate God as wrath and judge instead of marrying both characters of the Father as wrath AND intimate. The Abba pursuit is a window of transparency with God, pursuing a relationship that brings us into a full circle union with God, not by way of earning, but knowing you can walk with Him as righteous because you are in fact a son/daughter by way of adoption, not earning.
4. Eliu encourages Job to look up into the sky, just as God encouraged Abraham to look at the stars. The difference is Elihu saw clouds as a separation from God and man, where Abraham saw an invitation into nearness of the One who is always present. The problem with people not accepting righteousness as inheritance is that we view God as distant rather than here among us. Distance creates a pursuit of earning where a revelation of nearness produces the submission to cry out without fear. Even when Jesus leaves , He reminds us in **Matthew 28:20** that He is always with us.
5. We are called to wait on the Lord (**Isaiah 40:31**), but the waiting is never due to His absence. The waiting is the opportunity to pursue and grow while trusting in the nearness of God in every situation. Let our pursuit of God not be of gaining, but of receiving our placement as sons/daughters of God leaning into His nearness.