

ENDURING TRIALS

A Daily Devotional Study Guide



**THE BOOK
OF JOB**

WEEK 6

“Seeking After Wisdom”

Study: Job 28:1-28

Reading: Proverbs 2:1-9

Memory: Matthew 5:36

In my travels I have had the opportunity to see several different types of mines. In West Virginia, I toured a coal mine and saw the deplorable conditions that people worked to be able to get the coal out of the ground. In Colorado, I toured a gold mine in which I was amazed at the difficult process people went through in order to extract gold from the earth. In Africa, I saw an active diamond mine and the gigantic mounds of dirt that had been dug from the earth as they pulled out as many diamonds as they could get.

When you stop to think about all the death, bloodshed, physical pain and other problems that have existed through the centuries over precious stones and metals, you begin to realize the real emptiness of those things. Today, we are going to see how the most valuable thing in life is wisdom.

What Does the Bible Say?

It is interesting to note how the way people live has drastically changed over a couple thousand years, yet men are still the same. In Job’s day, just as today, men would go to great lengths to find things that are precious and special to them. Verses 1-11 describe the process that many men went through in order to find gold, silver and precious stones. They would painstakingly dig up the earth and build tunnels to be able to mine these items. Even in those days, without the fancy equipment we have today, they would dig deep down into the earth to find the precious metals and stones they were looking for.

Job expounded on that idea for the first eleven verses because he wanted to drive home the point that he presented in the next verses. If people look hard enough on this earth, they will find things that are considered precious to the people of the earth, but very few people seek after wisdom which is far more valuable than any stone or metal that has ever been known to man. Most people live their lives with many earthly valuables, but don’t seek after wisdom which is more valuable than any earthly possession (vs 12-13).

Wisdom can't be found in the earth, can't be bought with money, can't be traded for, nor can you put a price tag on it. A person can search on this earth till they die and not be able to find true wisdom themselves. Real wisdom only comes from God. He is the One who sees and knows everything that takes place on the earth. God knows this because He is the one who created all things and holds all things together. The earth is under His complete control. Because of this, He is the only source of real wisdom. Obtaining this wisdom starts with the simple steps of knowing God intimately. This will cause you to have a healthy fear of God, and in turn, you will choose to turn from evil (vs 14-28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What do you spend your time in life doing? Do you find yourself getting caught in the trap of the world by seeking after wealth or the pleasures of this life? Perhaps you have spent much time seeking after knowledge or power. You were reminded today, that the only thing really worth seeking after in life is an intimate relationship with Christ. Real wisdom is found in God and God has revealed himself in His Word. A proper fear of God is established by understanding who God is. The more you know God, the more you will respect and love Him. Truly knowing God just doesn't happen though. It doesn't come from just sitting in church or serving in ministries. It comes from daily study and daily intimacy. It comes through heartaches and abundant joy. God wants you to live for the only thing that is truly worth living for in life and that is Him and Him alone. Take time to examine your life today to evaluate whether you are seeking after wisdom more than any other thing in life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for making wisdom available to you.*
- * *Ask God to help you establish a more intimate walk with Him.*
- * *Praise God because He is far above any earthly power.*

Thought for the day

What items did Job mention in verses 1-2?

How are these still sought after today?

What does this reveal about mankind?

What will men do in order to find precious items in the earth (vs 3-4)?

How does Job compare what is grown on the earth and what comes from under the earth (vs 5-6)?

What does Job say about the things underground (vs 7-8)?

What lengths do men go to to find earthly treasure (vs 9-11)?

What question did Job present in verse 12?

What does man not know (vs 13)?

What did Job express about wisdom in verses 14-17?

What does Job say about wisdom in verses 18-19?

What question did Job present in verse 20?

Why do you think Job says that wisdom is hidden (vs 21-22)?

What does verse 23 declare about wisdom?

What does God have the ability to do (vs 24)?

How can the wisdom of God be seen in creation (vs 25)?

How is God's wisdom seen in nature and creation (vs 26-27)?

What two things did God say were part of wisdom (vs 28)?

- 1.
- 2.

“An Example to Follow”

Study: Job 29:1-25

Reading: Psalm 119:97-104

Memory: Matthew 5:36

What Does the Bible Say?

In the first few chapters of Job, we have been given insight into the wealth and prominence of Job, but in the reading today, we are given a much clearer picture by Job himself of what his life was like before God allowed Satan to inflict great pain and destruction. Job longed for the days of abundance and physical blessing to return to him. Before all this had happened, Job knew that God’s hand of protection and safety was constantly with him. During the dark and dismal times of his life, he could see the light of God shining through. He knew that God had caused him to prosper and had given him a great abundance of wealth which he and his family thoroughly enjoyed (vs 1-6).

Not only did Job experience great earthly wealth, but he also was given respect by both the young and the old who knew him. He was a strong, respected leader in the area where he lived, and when he spoke, the people listened intently to his words. They did this not only because Job was wealthy, but because they knew how he lived. He lived a life that was not consumed with himself, but was concerned about others. Job constantly was reaching out to help the poor and widowed of his community. He would do what he could to provide health and strength to those that were near death and he would bring great joy to the hearts of the fatherless and widows (vs 7-13).

He lived a life that was righteous and everyone knew it. He didn’t treat others unfairly, but was characterized by viewing men and situations impartially. He would direct those who were blind and be a father to those who were without one. He would be feet to those who were crippled and would be the help to the lost and needy stranger. He delivered people from the oppression of evil men and consistently fought for righteousness (vs 14-17).

He planned to live this way the rest of his life, enjoying what God had given him. He desired to see his many children and grand-children grow to carry on the way of life that he had established. He planned that his estate would continue to grow and that his fame and popularity would

continue to grow as well. He expected the respect that he had to continue forever. The respect that caused men to wait for him to speak and to pay close attention to every word. The respect that caused others to follow him as if he was a king. The respect that allowed him to change a person’s life with a simple smile and kind word. The respect that he thought would last for the rest of his life only lasted as long as God wanted it to (vs 18-25).

How Does this Apply to Me?

God had described Job as a man that was “blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.” Today, you were given a little bit of insight on how that description was lived out on a practical level. As you read of Job’s life today, you probably wouldn’t mind having the wealth and respect that he had, but are you willing to do what it takes to earn that respect and be entrusted with the wealth. Job was not stingy with what he had, but was constantly giving it away to others. As he did this, God kept blessing by providing him with more. As Job yielded his life in obedience to God by loving others, specifically the strangers and those who were less fortunate, God increased the respect that others had for him. Job followed God and it clearly showed in the life that he lived. This is something that you can strive for in your life. You can strive to be loving and caring to the poor and needy. You can reach out to help those who are in need. You can have great wisdom that causes others to look to you and respect the words that you say, but in order to have this, you must be willing to sacrifice your life and your rights for the cause of Christ. You can’t reap all the benefits without first being willing to sow the seeds like Job had done. Determine today that you want to model your life after that of Job and what is found elsewhere in Scripture.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you practical examples to follow.*
- * *Ask God to help you live a life that is set apart for Him.*
- * *Praise God because He knows everything about you.*

Thought for the day

What did Job wish for (vs 2)?

What had Job experienced (vs 3)?

What had Job understood about God’s blessings (vs 4-6)?

What position did Job have in society before all this happened (vs 7-10)?

How do you think he was able to obtain that position?

How did people see Job before all his tragedies (vs 11)?

What had Job done for the less fortunate (vs 12)?

How did Job help widows (vs 13)?

What do you think verse 14 means?

What was Job to those in need (vs 15-16)?

How did Job stand up to unrighteousness (vs 17)?

What were Job’s plans for his life (vs 18-20)?

What did men do when Job spoke (vs 21)?

What does verse 22 reveal about the counsel of Job?

How did they wait for Job (vs 23)?

What do you think that means?

How did Job help others around him (vs 24)?

How did Job live before he lost everything (vs 25)?

If you were to describe your life, could you say the same things that Job did? Explain.

“Hang In There”

Study: Job 30:1-31

Reading: Romans 8:18-30

Memory: Matthew 5:36

The church I pastored in Wisconsin supported some missionaries who started a missions work on the Amazon river in Peru in the 1960's. When they arrived, there was no written language among the Ticuna tribe and there were only two people who had any sort of formal education, but those two had only completed the second grade. Over their many years of service, the Andersons created a written language and have translated much of the Bible into that language. They have also seen thousands of the people from the Ticuna tribe trust in Jesus Christ and witnessed God do amazing things among the people. This transformation did not happen over night, but was a result of years and years of faithful service to God.

Today, we are going to read how important it is to “hang in there” even when it seems things are getting worse and not better. We can “hang in there” because we can rest on the fact that we have a great God.

What Does the Bible Say?

In chapter 29, Job went into great detail describing how he had been respected and honored by many, but in chapter 30, he described how much of that quickly changed. Job went from a respected individual who was looked up to by all, to a man who was looked down on by the lowest of the low. Job took verses 1-8 to describe these men in great detail. Men who were lazy and worthless as workers in the land. Men who preyed on others and took advantage of them in order to survive and provide for their families. It was the children of these men who were even making fun of Job and calling him disgraceful names (vs 1-8).

Job’s name which once brought great respect and honor when it was mentioned had now become a derogatory term. The word Job had become associated with pain and misery. These men didn’t hesitate to spit at Job as they passed by to show their disgrace towards him. They didn’t feel as if they had to restrain themselves from saying or doing anything when they were in Job’s presence, but they acted obnoxious and

rude without fear of reprimand or repercussion. This was not the result of something that Job did wrong, but it had all been allowed by God even though Job was a righteous man (vs 9-15).

All of the things that had happened to Job had broken his heart. He felt the constant inward pain from his emotions as well as the outward pain from his body. His physical body had changed in such a way that it was hard for people to recognize who he was. He felt rejected and cast away by God. He had been crying out to God for help, but it seemed as if God didn't hear him. Through this, he felt like he was in a violent windstorm being tossed about like a helpless object that was being beaten and battered. In Job's mind, all of this was leading to a time of death, which he wished would come soon (vs 16-23).

In his pain and misery, Job had reached out for help and found none. He had helped those in need when he saw the needy, yet no one was willing to help him. Now, the more he hoped for something positive, the more it seemed that something negative would happen. The physical toll of the disease that he had was becoming worse and he could find no hope because things weren't getting better. All he could do was mourn and weep because of the terrible state that he was in and because he felt trapped without a way out (vs 24-31).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you ever felt totally rejected and forsaken by God? Are there times when the hope that you have fades away because things seem to be getting worse and not better? This is the point that Job was reaching in his life because he mentally knew that God was there, but he physically couldn't see anything that was improving. If you haven't gone through times like this in your life, most likely you will because it is during those times that God teaches the greatest lessons. Though those times are hard, when you look back at them, they will be some of the most cherished moments of your life. Don't give up! Don't quit! God IS still on the throne, and as we will see in a few days, God does work things out for our good and for His glory.

Thought for the day

Who was laughing at Job (vs 1)?

How were these people described (vs 2-8)?

Why do you think Job took the time to describe these worthless men?

What had Job become to even the lowest of men (vs 9-10)?

What did Job say God had done (vs 11)?

What were the outcasts of society doing to Job (vs 12-15)?

How do you think this caused further humiliation to Job?

What did Job say about his troubles (vs 16)?

What was Job not able to find (vs 17)?

What did Job say God was doing to him (vs 18-19)?

****Job pictured God grabbing his clothes and throwing him down to the ground.*

How did Job feel God was responding (vs 20)?

What did Job say God was doing (vs 21)?

Have you ever felt this way? Explain.

What did Job feel would happen to him (vs 23)?

What did Job say should happen when a person cried for help (vs 24)?

What came to Job the more he cried out for help (vs 25-26)?

What are some things Job expressed about his current condition (vs 27-31)?

“The Self-Righteous Mode”

Study: Job 31:1-41

Reading: --

Memory: Matthew 5:36

Whenever I had a conflict with a person, I found myself entering a “self-righteous mode.” I began to look at all the things that I had done for that person, and began to think about the lack of respect or appreciation I thought I deserves. The more I thought about how wonderful of a guy I was, the more bothered I got at others, and the further apart my relationships grew. When I finally chose to break out of that mode and confess it as sin, I was amazed at how quick the joy was restored and I became much happier when I was no longer focusing on myself. It is amazing that when I become selfish and think about my happiness, I am often the least happy.

Today, we are going to see how Job’s justification of his righteousness turned into a self-righteous attitude which can happen and probably does happen to all of us.

What Does the Bible Say?

As Job took time to recount how he had been righteous before God, he began to question the character of God. He knew that his three friends weren’t totally accurate because he knew he wasn’t guilty of sin before God. They couldn’t understand how God could reward the righteous with evil things. Job started to wonder this same thing himself as his patience and endurance started to wear thin. Job was starting to allow his defense of his standing before God to turn into a self-righteous attitude (vs 1-4).

Job took a great deal of time (as we will read in today’s chapter) to describe all the things that he had done the right way. Job wanted God to weigh all of his good works and let them reveal that he didn’t deserve the punishment that he was now receiving. If he had done evil, he knew he deserved all that was happening, but he felt that it wasn’t right for God to allow all this to happen to him. These things are things that we should follow today and learn from because they are signs of righteousness. It is important to remember that any true righteousness that we have in our lives doesn’t come from ourselves, but from God (vs 5-8).

In verses 9-12, Job described how he had been faithful to his wife. In verses 13-15, he described how he listened to the complaints of his servants and did what needed to be done to correct the problem. Job clearly understood that God was the master designer of all men and that he shouldn’t look down on a person just because they were a servant in his house. In verses 16-23, Job described how carefully he had taken care of those who were poor and without hope. He cared for the fatherless and the widows. He gave food and clothes to those who were in need. He wouldn’t send strangers away, but would take them in and provide for them. Job knew that God would hold him accountable for his actions and he didn’t want to do anything that was against the heart of God. In verses 24-28, Job described how he had not trusted in his wealth and had not bowed down to worship nature, but had worshiped God alone.

In verse 29, Job began to sum up his speech and repeat many of the things that he had already said. He felt he was innocent and understood what it meant to fear God. He had tried to live righteously and he wished he could have a meeting with God to declare this to him. He was beginning to question whether or not God was listening and he wondered if God really cared. If his actions were evil and truly deserving of judgment, Job wanted to be judged, but if he was righteous, he wanted to be acquitted and wanted God to lift the hand of oppression off of his life.

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you find yourself throwing “pity parties” for yourself? Perhaps you are underappreciated for all that you do in the church. Perhaps your spouse or children fail to see how much you have sacrificed your desires for their good. Perhaps you have been trying to do all you can to please God and it still seems that He isn’t pleased because of all the things that are happening to you. If you have been struggling with this, you need to stop and evaluate who you really are and who God is. When you begin to throw a “pity party” for yourself you often enter into a mode of complete selfishness, though you might mask it and give it another name. If you truly understand who you are and who God is, you will realize that you deserve nothing, yet God chooses to give you many things. Take time today to write out who God is and who you are and describe what He has given you out of the good treasure of His heart. Choose to rejoice in Him and not yourselves and how you feel things should or shouldn’t go.

What was Job expressing in verse 1?

What did Job say about calamity and disasters (vs 2-3)?

What question did Job ask in verse 4?

What sins did Job say he was innocent of in verse 5?

What did Job want God to do (vs 6)?

What did Job want to happen if he had sinned (vs 7-8)?

What sin had Job not been a part of (vs 9-10)?

What did Job say should happen if he had been a part of that sin (vs 11-12)?

What had Job not done (vs 13)?

What did Job express about his creation (vs 15)?

What did Job say he did not fail to do (vs 16-17)?

What had Job done for those in need (vs 18-22)?

What did Job say he would deserve if he had not done those things (vs 23)?

What did Job say he did not do (vs 24-28)?

What was Job's attitude towards his enemies (vs 29-30)?

What did Job do for his servants and strangers (vs 31-32)?

How did Job not let others keep him from doing right (vs 33-34)?

What did Job wish he had (vs 35-37)?

What did Job express in verses 38-40?

“Wisdom Beyond Your Years”

Study: Job 32:1-18

Reading: Proverbs 4:1-13

Memory: Matthew 5:36

When I was a young pastor, I had a married couple come to me with marriage problems and I was afraid to counsel with them because they were several years older than me. I didn't know if I had the answers to help with their problems. Through the Lord's leading, my wife and I started meeting with them on a regular basis and I found out that I wasn't real wise, but the Word of God contained wisdom that was able to help solve this marriage problem.

Today, we are going to see how true wisdom comes from God.

What Does the Bible Say?

Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar finally gave up in trying to convince Job that he was unrighteous because they saw that he was absolutely convinced that he had done nothing to cause the catastrophes to come upon him. During much of this time, a fourth person named Elihu, one that had not been mentioned before, had been listening to the conversation between Job and his other friends. His message was much different than that of the previous three. He was bothered by Job, but not because Job wouldn't admit that he had done wrong, but because Job was glorifying himself rather than glorifying God. Out of respect, Elihu had listened to all that had gone on and had chosen not to say anything because he was younger than everyone else, but now that they were done speaking he took the opportunity to help give Job the answer that he had been looking for (vs 1-5).

He began his message by describing how he wanted to let those who had experienced much more of life be the ones who did the speaking. He told them that he was willing to now speak up because he understood that wisdom didn't always come from years of life, but came from God himself. Just because he was young, didn't mean that he was not wiser than the others. He found that all of Job's friends were older than he, but none was wiser because his wisdom was from the Lord. He wasn't going to respond to Job's arguments and questions with a defensive response as

the others had done, but his approach was going to be different. Job's friends had used earthly methods of problem solving and reasoning, but those methods didn't work (vs 6-14).

Elihu expressed how after hearing everything that was said, he could no longer contain himself. He felt that he had much truth to say and that it was now being squeezed out of him. It was as if the pressure had built inside of him and he had to speak to relieve that pressure. He was going to speak, and he was going to speak the truth. He wasn't going to sidestep issues or make things sound better than they were. He was going to speak the truth directly, because real truth is truth (vs 15-22).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you ever felt put down by those older than you when you tried to share the truth? Do you sometimes know the right thing, but are afraid to share it because those who are in a position that is higher than you might not listen? Though the Bible commands us to give great honor to those who are older and more mature and have experienced many more things in life, God also makes clear that real wisdom doesn't always come with age. No matter what age you are, you can be a person of wisdom if your wisdom comes from the right place. True wisdom will come from God and the source God gives us to access that wisdom is His Word. This means that if you truly want to be wise, you need to saturate yourself with the Word of God and put yourself in a place where you constantly rub shoulders with others who know and apply the Word. Going to church once or twice a week won't give you the wisdom to become truly wise. Daily reading the Word and prayer, constant discussing of the Word, listening to the Word being taught. attending services and Bible studies will all help put you on the right track to help you gain true wisdom. Start seeking after that wisdom today.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you the ability to be wise.*
- * *Ask God to help you to seek wisdom.*
- * *Praise God because He is the source of all wisdom.*

Thought for the day

Why did Job's three friends choose not to answer Job anymore (vs 1)?

What did Elihu feel after hearing the responses of Job (vs 2)?

Do you think he was right or wrong in his response? Explain.

How did Elihu feel after hearing the responses of the three friends (vs 3)?

Why did Elihu wait to speak (vs 4)? Why did Elihu choose to speak now (vs 5)?

How did Elihu start his speech (vs 6)? How was his wisdom displayed in this?

Why did Elihu expect the older men to give better answers (vs 7)?

How have you experienced older individuals who were not wise? What steps can you take to help you avoid this?

What did Elihu express about true wisdom (vs 8)?

Why is it very important to understand what he declared in verse 9?

What did Elihu want to do?

What had Elihu done (vs 11-12)? How was this wise?

What do you think verse 13 means?

****True wisdom comes from God and not man.*

Why did Elihu not want to use the same arguments (vs 14)?

****In verses 15-16 Elihu said he would speak now since the others were finally silent.*

Why did Elihu say he needed to speak (vs 17-20)?

What was Elihu not going to do (vs 21-22)?

“Blessings In Disguise”

Study: Job 33:1-33

Reading: II Corinthians 12:1-10

Memory: Matthew 5:36

When I went to college, I thought I was a shoe-in to make the soccer team. I had come from a high school that won the national soccer championship for Christian schools and I was named to the all tournament team. I was greatly dissapointd when I failed to make the team and was placed on the practice squad. When the next year came, I decided not to try out for the team, fearing that I would be cut again. The college had a rule that each student needed to serve at a local church if they were not on a sports team. My decision not to play soccer forced me to find a church, and that decision ultimately changed my life. I ended up serving at that church for 19 years and it was at that church were I met my wife.

Today, we are going to read how God uses the difficult times in our lives to bring about His plan and will for our lives. We will see the importance of turning to Him through tragedies and difficulties and letting Him teach us the lessons that He wants us to learn.

What Does the Bible Say?

Elihu strongly desired that Job would listen to him because he had an answer for Job that he believed was the truth. He knew that what he was going to say was not just from the viewpoint of men, but was from God. He didn't say this in a prideful way though, because he understood that he was not anyone special. He was a piece of clay desiring to be molded by the Master. Elihu wanted Job to be able to give an answer and defend himself if what he said was wrong, though Elihu was confident that his answer was from the Lord. He didn't want Job to be afraid of him or to feel condemned, but he wanted Job to understand the truth of God and how it could be a great help to him (vs 1-7).

Elihu recounted Job's words and how he had declared he was innocent, yet he felt like God was treating him as an enemy. To this, Elihu responded by telling Job that he was wrong. Elihu explained how Job had sinned by trying to fight with God and blame God for all the

terrible things that happened to him. He was blaming God without having the ability to truly know what God was thinking or what had preceded the great damage that had been done to his earthly treasures and physical body. He explained how God did things in many different and mysterious ways because he loves that person and wants what is best for the one he loves (vs 8-18).

One of the ways that God used to help direct people was by appearing in visions and dreams to warn people. Another way God used was physical pain and suffering. God could even bring something upon a person's life that brings him to the point of death, yet He could also send an angel to spare that person and help turn them back to Him. When the lessons are learned that God desires for that man to learn, in His mercy he can restore the health of that person and often do it in a way that gives the person greater health than he had before. Things like this are meant to help drive a person closer to God as they realize their complete and total need to depend on him and not on themselves. His point was that God allows terrible things to happen in the lives of men not as a punishment or from neglect, but out of love. He does it to help mold and shape that man into the person that He wants them to be (vs 19-33).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How do you view difficulties, tragedies and heartaches? Do you view them as a negative thing and beg for God to take them away, or do you view them as a blessing and a gift from God? God understands how easy it is for men to trust in themselves and the riches that God has blessed them with. He will often allow people to go through difficult and trying times for that person's good as it drives him back to Himself. Difficult times are actually blessings from the Lord, though they are often blessings in disguise. How you treat these hard times are vital to your spiritual walk. If you complain or gripe about them or blame God for all the terrible things he is doing to you, you might miss out on the great things that he has waiting for you when the tough time is over. This must be taken by faith and when you trust Him and learn during the difficult times, you will be greatly blessed.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the tough times that come your way.*
- * *Ask God to help you to trust His love for you.*
- * *Praise God because He knows what is best for you.*

Why did Elihu want Job to listen to him (vs 1-3)?

How do verses 1-4 express the humility of Elihu?

What did Elihu express about himself (vs 5-6)?

How was this different than the approach of the other three friends?

What did Elihu repeat (vs 8-11)?

****Elihu was declaring that Job was not being punished for his sin, but was sinning because he accused God of picking a fight with him.*

What did Elihu declare (vs 12)? Why?

What did Elihu say Job was doing that was wrong (vs 13)?

What are some things that God does (vs 14-18)?

How can God protect His children (vs 18)?

What does God do to some people (vs 19-22)?

What can God choose to do if he desires (vs 23-24)?

What did God have the ability to do (vs 25)?

How can God restore (vs 26)?

What is the result of experiencing the mercy of God (vs 27-28)?

What does God do “again and again” for His people (vs 29-30)?

What does God allow people to do after he brings them through great trials (vs 30)?

What did Elihu give Job the opportunity to do (vs 31-33)?

How did this reveal the wisdom of Elihu?

MEMORY VERSES

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.