

ENDURING TRIALS

A Daily Devotional Study Guide



**THE BOOK
OF JOB**

WEEK 7

“The Failure of Man’s Wisdom”

Study: Job 34:1-37

Reading: I Corinthians 3:18-23

Memory: Matthew 5:37

What Does the Bible Say?

Some of the wisdom that Elihu claimed to have come shining through as he spoke to Job and the others. He didn’t come straight out and say, “You are wrong and I am right!” He carefully dealt with the situation, challenging each one of them to examine his words to see if they were the truth. He didn’t try to force his thoughts or his way on others, but let the truth that he spoke speak for itself. This was a great way to clarify things because Elihu wasn’t fully right in his argumentation, though he made many great points (vs 1-4).

Elihu began by quoting some of the things that Job had said. Job had talked about the fact that he was right before God, yet God was treating him like he was a terrible person. Job had expressed how God had put him in a terrible state and the only hope he had left was to die. Elihu then went on to rebuke Job for hanging around sinners and evil men, which was an erroneous accusation. Though Elihu was wrong in that point, he was correct in pointing out that it was wrong to say that following God was no better than living for one’s self (9:30). This rebuke was directed at Job, though the way Elihu took the words of Job might not have been exactly what Job had meant (vs 5-9).

The fact that Job had accused God of dealing evilly with him was clearly brought to the forefront of the conversation and Job needed to re-evaluate his thinking about God. God was too holy and pure to sin. God would not do what was wrong, but would take the actions that he desired to take for His glory and the good of His followers. No one has power over God because He is God. He will do as He pleases and what He pleases to do will always be the right thing (vs 10-15).

Part of doing the right thing all the time means that God will not show partiality when he judges. Kings and princes will receive the same type of judgment as the poor and needy. They don’t earn special privileges because of their position in life. All men are creations made by the Master Creator. No matter if a person is rich or poor, popular or unknown, all men will die and will stand before their Maker (vs 16-20).

Nothing is ever hidden from God. Though evil men try to hide their deeds, they can't because God sees all that takes place. God didn't need men to present their case before Him before. He made a decision because He already knew all there was to know. No investigative work was needed with God because he sees everyone that turns aside from His way and He answers them in the way they need to be answered (vs 21-28).

Just because God was silent and wasn't condemning some evil doers at the time didn't mean that God was oblivious to what was going on. Even when wickedness was ruling over the land, God knew what was going on and He was acting according to His plan. Elihu understood that God's ways were much different than the ways of men (vs 29-30).

Through his difficulties, Job had declared that he would change his actions if he knew where he was going wrong. He thought that if God showed him his sin and he changed his actions that everything would be okay, but Job was rebuked for that because it was a form of trying to tell God what to do. Even if Job was being chastened for his sin, he couldn't just turn on the "on/off" switch of chastening by choosing to do things differently (vs 31-33).

Elihu felt that Job should suffer more because of some of the rebellious attitudes that he had displayed through this trial. While Job did question God and demand that God hear him and change his circumstance, Elihu had become like the other three in condemning Job when God had already declared him innocent. Though Elihu's speech contained more truth and reality than the other three, he still spoke from the wisdom and understanding of men rather than truly speaking the wisdom of God (vs 34-37).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Once again we read today how man's wisdom and understanding had failed. Elihu's speeches in the previous two chapters gave great hope that true biblical wisdom was going to prevail, but we see from reading today that wisdom mixed with error is not great wisdom. Yes, Elihu had an understanding of God, but he still failed to see what the other three accusers failed to see. God had declared Job to be perfect and upright before any of this had ever begun. This is a great warning to you today and an important reminder to take I Corinthians 3:18 to heart. "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise."

What do you think Elihu was trying to say in verses 2-3?

What did Elihu encourage those who were listening to do (vs 4)?

What words of Job did Elihu quote (vs 5-6)?

What are some things Elihu accused Job of (vs 7-9)?

What did Elihu declare about God (vs 10)?

What would happen if God would remove His spirit from the earth (vs 13-15)?

What point was Elihu trying to make in verses 16-19?

How is this a true statement?

What can we learn about earthly power from this passage (vs 16-20)?

What does God see (vs 21)?

Why is it important to realize the truth of verse 22?

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

Why did God bring judgment according to Elihu (vs 25-28)?

What do you think Elihu meant in verse 29?

Do you think verse 30 is true? Explain.

****In verses 31-34 Elihu quoted some of the things that Job had said.*

What did Elihu say about Job's words (vs 35)?

What did Elihu say about Job's punishment (vs 36)?

Why did he say Job deserved this (vs 37)?

“Being A Real Comfort”

Study: Job 35:1-16

Reading: I Corinthians 13:1-8

Memory: Matthew 5:37

I am friends with many people on facebook and I really enjoy seeing what people are up to in life and what their families are involved in. What I don't like is when people start using the platform to share their emotions. At times, I will choose to stop seeing messages from certain individuals because they start expressing what they feel is great wisdom, though it is quite clear that they are posting from emotion. Emotions can often blind us to the real truth. Though people often think they are being helpful, they often hurt their cause and hurt others when they let their emotion become the source of their wisdom.

Today, we are going to read how Elihu was well meaning and sincere, but he was not much more help to Job than his other companions. His focus was on fixing the problem rather than helping Job, but his fixes weren't correct.

What Does the Bible Say?

Though Elihu was more in the right than the other three companions of Job, he still presented inaccuracies about Job and wasn't much more help than the other three. Elihu began chapter 35 by questioning Job's statement about the fact that serving God seemed to make no difference. In his distress and agony, Job had wondered if he would have been better off to be in sin and face the same consequences he was facing now. At least then, he would know why he was being “punished.” This thought is a natural thought, but not a correct thought and Elihu rebuked Job for that type of thinking. Elihu described how man's sin or righteousness doesn't change God. The way we live has an affect on others around us, but doesn't hurt God himself because He is far above man and far above the reaches of the hurts of men. This doesn't mean that men can do whatever they want though because the way a man lives has a profound affect on his emotions and situations in life (vs 1-8).

Elihu then related how people often cry out to God just when they are in trouble or difficult times come into their lives. They cry out to Him

because they understand and know the mighty power He has to deliver them, but God doesn't deliver this type of person. God wants men to look to Him as their Maker and in doing so they will serve Him as Lord. He wants men to turn to Him to look for joy and for strength, and when they do so, He will pour out abundant wisdom and knowledge into their lives, giving them a life that is far greater than those who turn from God. In these statements, Elihu is quite accurate. God does want us to seek Him not just for the earthly benefits, but in an understanding of our sinful and powerless state realizing how much we need Him.

Though he was pretty accurate on this, he went on to accuse Job of being prideful and only seeking God to help solve his problems rather than desiring intimate communion with him. Just as the other three companions, this wasn't much help to Job because he did have a close walk with God. He was being rebuked for things that he knew to be true, yet he was wrestling with his emotions and needed help (vs 9-16).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How are you a comfort and help to those who are in need? Do you tend to try to fix or solve everyone's problems when they come to talk to you, or do you lend a listening ear and allow them to feel free to express their emotions without rebuke? One of the greatest hindrances to real fellowship in the body of Christ is a fear of rejection for what we think or feel. We often know the right thing, but we battle with our feelings. We are often afraid to express those feelings out of fear that we will be rebuked. There is a time for rebuke, but often we just need someone to talk out our feelings with and to encourage us on the right path. This is why it is so important not to be quick to judge or to give advice, but to listen and encourage. Rebuke gently when you need to rebuke, but offer your love and encouragement before your advice or rebuke.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the encouragers He has placed in your life.*
- * *Ask God to help you be a loving help to others.*
- * *Praise God because He understands our emotions and our feelings.*

Thought for the day

What question did Elihu ask Job (vs 2)?

What had Job asked (vs 3)?

What did Elihu tell Job and his friends to observe (vs 5)?

What question did Elihu ask (vs 6)?

What point was he trying to make?

What point was Elihu attempting to make in verse 7?

What did Elihu say about their sin (vs 8)?

Do you think Elihu was accurate in what he was saying in these verses? Explain.

What happens to people on the earth (vs 9)?

What did Elihu say they don't cry out for (vs 10)?

What did Elihu say God had the power to do (vs 11)?

Why did Elihu say God does not answer when people cry out (vs 12)?

What does God not hear (vs 13)?

What do you think Elihu was pointing out in verse 14?

****Job declared that he couldn't seem to find God through this trial. Job had declared he would wait on God, knowing that God may work some time. Yet, Elihu thought that Job needed to act and change his behavior rather than wait.*

What did Elihu say Job had said (vs 15)?

What did Elihu think of the way Job was talking (vs 16)?

How was Elihu right in some points and wrong in others?

“Changing Our Thinking”

Study: Job 36:1-33

Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Memory: Matthew 5:37

It is amazing how many things we try to remove from our lives without replacing them with something much better. For instance, a person can go on a diet and choose not to eat sweets for a time, but unless they replace their sweets with something better, they often find the diet too hard to stick to. Another illustration of this might be the idea of cleaning a garage. You can clean it so it looks great, but unless you put your car in there to take up the space, most of the time it gets cluttered with something else.

Today, we are going to read how the same is true of our lives. We can try to remove wrong thinking or wrong habits, but unless we replace it with something better, those things we tried to remove will just come back and will often be worse.

What Does the Bible Say?

For some reason, Elihu had claimed that his wisdom was much greater than that of Job and his three companions. Though he might have thought this, his speech reveals much of the same type of counsel that Job's three friends had given him. He felt that his wisdom was so great and realized that he had so much to share that he asked Job to bear with him and hear him out completely. When Elihu began his speech, he appeared to be wise and approached it with great humility. He had asked Job to evaluate his words for the truth, but now, as his confidence had grown, he declared that he knew the truth (vs 1-4).

In verses 5-16, Elihu gave a repeat of what each of Job's three companions had explained to Job. He declared that even if a righteous person was afflicted by something and they continued to live in righteousness, then God would bring them out of their situation and restore them to a high position in this life. Elihu's argumentation was similar to that of the others, and though he claimed to be God-focused, that type of knowledge is man centered. It assumes that man deserves to have earthly blessings if they choose to do what is right. It teaches that

God always rewards the righteous with good and the unrighteous with evil (vs 5-16).

Though Elihu had taken the position that Job must have sinned, his speeches weren't near as hurtful as that of the others. He did give some good advice, though it was intermingled with wrong thinking. Part of that advice began in verse 17 when he told Job not to be preoccupied with the justice of God. When we start deciding if God is fair or unfair, we often become discontent and untrusting. This often leads to further problems in our lives and many people are led away from God by that type of thinking. Elihu wanted Job to know that he couldn't accuse God of doing wrong because God always did what was right (vs 17-23).

The advice of Elihu was not all bad. In this portion of his speech he directed Job to place his focus upon God. He wanted Job to realize how great and powerful God was. He wanted Job to understand that we can't fully know why God does what He does, but that we can trust Him no matter what (vs 24-33).

How Does this Apply to Me?

When things aren't going the way that you planned, do you place a stronger focus on your circumstances or do you begin to look to God? The natural tendency of all mankind is to dwell on our problems. We go to bed thinking about them and wake up troubled by them. They seem to be there at every turn and every time we have a moment for a spare thought. Though we try to give them over to God, sometimes it seems that God is not taking them over. What can you do about this when it happens to you? This is when you need to start focusing on the character of God. Take time to meditate on His power and His greatness. Search the Word of God for characteristics of God and begin to dwell on those things. You have to regularly throughout the day choose to replace the thoughts about your problem with thoughts about God.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Praise God because His ways are far above your ways.*

Thought for the day

Who did Elihu think he was speaking for (vs 2)?

What did Elihu declare about his wisdom (vs 3)?

What bold statement did he make in verse 4?

Do you think this was an expression of confidence or arrogance?

What did Elihu declare about God (vs 5)?

What does God do to the wicked (vs 6)?

What does God do for the righteous (vs 7)?

Are verses 6 & 7 true statements? Explain your answer.

What did Elihu say about those who meet trouble (vs 8-9)?

****If someone is doing wrong, God will show them what they are doing.*

What does God do for those who are in error (vs 10)?

What did Elihu say would happen to those who recognize the error of their way (vs 11)?

What happened to the godless (vs 13-14)?

How does God get the attention of men (vs 15)?

What did Elihu say people need to be careful of (vs 17-21)?

What did Elihu declare about God (vs 22-23)?

What should men do in response to God's greatness (vs 24)?

What illustrations did Elihu use to express the power of God (vs 25-33)?

What point do you think Elihu was attempting to make?

“Fearing God”

Study: Job 37:1-24

Reading: Ecclesiastes 9:12-14

Memory: Matthew 5:37

Over the years, I have observed several interactions between teenagers and their parents. The way a teen responds to his or her parental authority often reveals the type of relationship they have with their parents. When a parent says no and the teen continually complains to the parent (which often leads to the parent giving in), this often reveals a lack of respect for a parent. On the other hand, when a parent says no and the teen, though disappointed, willingly obeys, it is often a sign of deep respect. This respect normally comes with the constant display of love that a parent has shown to the teen over the years.

Today, we are going to read how our actions reveal our level of respect for our God.

What Does the Bible Say?

Elihu wrapped up his speech by drawing Job’s attention to the power and might of God. His main point was that Job had no reason to be prideful before God. Though Elihu hadn’t been right in all his observations of God, perhaps Job did have some self-righteousness existing in his life after he compared how he lived to all the others who were living around him.

One of the things that amazed Elihu, that still amazes us today, is the power that God displays in the weather patterns of this world. One of the most awesome displays of the magnificence of God comes during thunder storms as we hear the thunder and see the lightning. We can predict the weather today better than they were able to back then, yet we have no ability to control what God decides to do. When God chooses to bring a storm, weather a powerful thunderstorm or a blizzard, He causes many people to stop what they are doing because of the amount of precipitation that falls upon the earth. Animals retreat to their dens and people wait in their houses until God decides to move the storm along (vs 1-8).

From the breath of God comes the cold arctic blasts that cause the

lakes and rivers to freeze over. He also causes the winds that swirl which lead to tornadoes and hurricanes. Sometimes he brings certain storms upon land for punishment purposes and other times it is a show of love. Both can be clearly seen throughout Scripture (vs 9-13).

Elihu then directed his speech towards Job asking him if he had the ability to control nature like God does. God is the One who masterfully knows how to bring about different weather patterns to accomplish His purpose among men and control the affairs of their lives. If Job couldn’t do this, what chance would Job have to convince God of his innocence or to try to defend himself before God. God’s power is so great and mighty that our main response to God should be to continually fear Him. The idea of fearing God is the idea of respecting the awesomeness and wonder of God. That respect of God will control how we choose to live (vs 14-24).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How would you rate your fear of God? Does this fear control your actions? No matter what answer you gave to that last question, the fear of God does control your actions. If you have a great respect and awe of God and His power, you will realize your need to live completely surrendered and sold out to Him. If you live with little fear of God, you will be the one who is in control of what you do rather than God. This is because you don’t respect the power of God and you think that your power to do what you want is equal to or greater than His. Though you might not verbally say that you know just as much as God does about what is best for you, the way you live reveals how you truly think.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Praise God because His power and wisdom is so much greater than yours.
- * Ask God to help you develop a healthy fear of Him.
- * Thank God for being much greater than yourself.

Thought for the day

What does Elihu compare the voice of God to (vs 1-5)?

What does God do (vs 5)?

What does God control (vs 6)?

What does God cause people and animals to do during storms (vs 7-8)?

How do storms display God's great power (vs 9)?

What does God do with His breath (vs 10)?

What does God control (vs 11-12)?

What are ways that God used weather for correction in the Bible (vs 13)?

What are ways that God used weather to show love in the Bible (vs 13)?

What did Elihu want Job to do (vs 14)?

What illustration of God's power did Elihu use in verses 15 & 16?

How does God change the weather (vs 17)?

****When the wind blew from the south, it would bring up the warm air from Egypt.*

What did Elihu ask in verse 18?

What do you think verse 19 meant?

****In verse 20, Elihu declared that men are unworthy to say anything against the plan of God.*

What was the splendor of God compared to (vs 21-22)?

What will God not do (vs 23)?

What does God not regard (vs 24)?

“Who Made the World?”

Study: Job 38:1-15

Reading: Psalm 19:1-14

Memory: Matthew 5:37

What Does the Bible Say?

Though we aren't sure how long Job suffered from the condition that he was in, it must have seemed like years to him. He could find no comfort and found very little help from those who were his friends. He had wondered if God had abandoned him and left him alone to waste away and die. Many of his questions were about to be answered as God came to Job and spoke to him. He came to Job in some type of powerful wind, though we can't fully know what this was like (vs 1).

The first statement that God made revealed Job's foolishness in questioning Him. Job had actually caused greater confusion in his mind and in that of others by wanting to question God about his innocence rather than just choosing to trust that God knew what was best. God then told Job to prepare himself like a man would when he was about to face a strenuous task. He was going to question Job and he wanted him to be thinking and prepared to give the correct answers (vs 2-3).

The beginning questions were about the existence and creation of the universe. He asked Job where he was when the earth was created out of nothing. He wanted to know if Job had helped Him decide on the size of the earth or if he had helped Him put the stars in the exact right place to bring glory to Himself. The answer to these questions were obvious as God was using them to reveal His authority and power. Just as He had power to define the borders of the oceans and to make the clouds that gather the water from the sea, He had the power to work things for good in Job's life (vs 4-11).

It was made known to Job that he didn't cause the sun to rise and set every morning. This light brought about by the sun stops wicked men from doing their deeds since most evil deeds are done under the cover of darkness. The light of the earth isn't a sporadic light, but the earth receives light on a consistent, regular basis. On first appearance, verse 14 doesn't seem to fit here, but further explanation reveals a great truth. According to the MacArthur Study Bible, "Documents written on clay tablets were signed using personal engraved seals upon which was written

the bearer's name. The Hebrew for 'Takes on form' is 'turned.' It conveys the idea that the earth is turned or rotated like a cylindrical seal rolled over the soft clay. Such rolling cylinder seals were found in Babylon. This speaks of the earth, rotating on its axis, an amazing statement that only God could reveal in ancient days. The dawn rolls across the earth as it rotates." (vs 12-15)

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize how limited your power and strength are when you read passages like this? If you don't realize this, take a moment to mediate on the great power of God. This was given to Job so that he would understand the reality of his weakness and his inability to question God. He had no right to even present his case before God. Through this, God was declaring to Job that He was perfectly right in all that He had done and was doing. He knew exactly what was going on in Job's life and instead of questioning God or trying to defend himself as righteous, He needed to look to him for strength and help. God can't be limited by human thinking which is a trap that many people fall in to. As a human, you can't fully understand or comprehend the great power and might of God, therefore you can't fully try to reason things out when they happen in your life. This is where faith comes in and you have to choose to trust that God is all-powerful and that He knows everything. You have to choose to trust that He is still working in your life and your situation regardless of how you feel about things that are going on all around you. It is this trust that will allow God to continue to work in you and that will give you joy in trials and tribulations. It is this trust that will set you apart from the rest of the world as they see how you deal with difficulties compared to how they face the same problems.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Praise God because He masterfully designed the universe.
- * Ask God to help you trust in His abilities.
- * Thank God for desiring to have a close, personal walk with you.

Thought for the day

What do you think "out of a whirlwind" meant (vs 1)?

Why is it important to realize that God is speaking in this passage (vs 1)?

****Up to this point in the book, human thinking and logic was at the forefront. There was great truth in this thinking, but also great error. Now God was speaking and what He spoke was all truth.*

What question did God ask in verse 2?

What do you think He meant?

What was God about to do (vs 3)?

What point was God making in verses 4-7?

Why is this truth important to realize?

Why do you think Scripture constantly refers back to the fact that God was the Creator?

What had God done to the sea (vs 8)?

What do you think that meant?

What does verse 9 reveal about God's power over the clouds?

How can we see the truth of verses 9-11?

****God created land which serves as barriers to hold back the power of the oceans.*

What do men not have the ability to do (vs 12)?

How does the light affect the wicked (vs 13)?

What do you think verse 14 means?

Why is light so important (vs 15)?

“Look Around You”

Study: Job 38:15-38

Reading: Psalm 8:1-9

Memory: Matthew 5:37

When “Google earth” first came out, I was in awe of how far our technology had come. I still am amazed by it many years later and sometimes get caught up in searching around to see what I can see. In fact, if you look up Homestead Community Church, you will see that the picture of the church was taken the day we were removing trees from the church and preparing for our new sign to be installed. I find it fascinating what this satellite technology has allowed us to do.

Today, we are going to read how we have much more advanced technology than Job did and are able to understand far more about the earth and the weather, yet just as Job, we can’t control it.

What Does the Bible Say?

Continuing to question Job and prove the point of His supremacy, God asked Job if he had ever seen the depths of the ocean. He wanted to know if Job had ever seen what was beyond the gates of death or what life was like after this world was over. He wanted to know if Job had seen the enormity of the earth and understood all of its complexities. God asked Job to explain any of this if he knew the answer. Of course, today, we know much more than Job did about the earth, but many of the workings of our universe are still a mystery to us. Through this questioning, God wanted Job to realize that Job had no reason to question God. He didn’t have the knowledge, strength or ability to tell God what to do or to try to force His hand (vs 16-18).

God continued on as he described how He alone knew where the sun went and why it took the path that it took. In an almost sarcastic tone, God told Job that he should know. After all, if Job thought he had the ability to know what God should do, then he certainly had already been born when the earth came into existence (vs 19-21). Continuing with the theme of nature, God wondered if Job knew how snow and hail came to be. Flashes of lightning and strong winds were used along with hail,

snow, rain and many other natural events for God to display His power. These are all controlled by God to carry out His master plan. The giving and taking away of rain can be predicted by men, but can’t be changed by men. The One who has complete control of the weather is God. This was making clear that God alone was in control of events and affairs of nature and that nothing could happen that He didn’t allow to happen (vs 22-30).

Next, God turned his attention to the stars. He knew that Job mentally knew that God was in control of the universe (Job 9), but God wanted to remind Job once again that He really was on the throne. It was God who put the stars in their places for a reason and a purpose. Whether it be the stars, clouds, deep parts of the earth or the dirt of the earth, God made it completely and totally clear that He has the power needed to accomplish His plan. Our responsibility as His followers is to trust in Him (vs 31-38).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you ever stopped to observe all the process of nature around you? Have you been amazed at how all of God’s creation works together in an orderly fashion? The question God was posing to Job throughout this chapter is the same question we can confront ourselves with today. If God can control all of the natural events of this earth, can you trust Him enough to control the affairs of your life? If you go back to the beginning part of Job, Satan declared to God that Job would serve God as long as things were going well in his life. Satan was convinced that once he took away all the benefits and blessings of God that Job would curse God and turn from Him. Job didn’t do that, but he did strongly questioned God and began to doubt God through this great trial. The example of Job is given for you to learn from. One of the great lessons today is to stop and look around you when you start to question what God is doing. When you remind yourself of what He is doing in the world around you, it will help you remember that God is still on the throne.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you see Him in His handy work.*

* *Praise God because He is in total control.*

Thought for the day

What did Job not have the ability to explore (vs 16)?

What gates was God referring to in verse 17?

****The entrance to death is not seen by men. We see the causes of death and the results of death, but we don't have the ability to control life and death.*

What did God ask Job to declare (vs 18)?

What point do you think God was making to Job?

What question did God ask about light and darkness (vs 19-20)?

What does this show about our ability to control things?

What do you think verse 21 meant?

****This is where it appears that God was being a little sarcastic saying "You must be real old if you were around when I created light and darkness."*

What was verse 22 a reference to?

What did God use weather to accomplish (vs 23)?

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

How is God's control of nature evident (vs 25-27)?

Why do you think God declared that the rain and ice do not come from a mother or father (vs 28-30)?

What did God say about the stars (vs 31-33)?

What do men not have the ability to do (vs 34-35)?

What does God have the ability to do (vs 36-38)?

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. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.