

## 102724 English Sermon "Seeing is Believing" Job 42:1-6

"Seeing is believing." We often use this phrase to express how experiencing something firsthand makes it more real to us. We are more likely to trust, understand, or believe something once we've witnessed it ourselves. In the book of Job, we see how this phrase takes on a profound meaning for a man who suffered deeply, questioned honestly, and finally came face-to-face with God in a life-changing encounter.

Job's journey from suffering and endless questioning to seeing and understanding God's greatness offers us a profound lesson on faith. In Job 42:1-6, we find Job's confession, his moment of repentance, and his acknowledgment of God's sovereignty. In this passage, Job doesn't just believe in God but he encounters God and is transformed.

Let's take a moment to consider Job's journey. Job was a faithful man, blessed with family, wealth, and health. Suddenly, everything was taken away. Literally, everything! He lost his children, his possessions, and his health. In the depths of suffering, Job asked, "Why?" He wrestled with God, he questioned, and he sought answers to understand why he was experiencing such pain.

Job's friends offered explanations rooted in their belief that suffering is always a punishment for sin, according to the logic of karma or cause and effect. But Job insisted on his innocence, unable to reconcile his faithfulness with the pain he was enduring. Job wanted an audience with God to seek understanding, to confront God about the justice of his suffering.

How often, like Job, do we question, especially when life takes unexpected turns? We long for answers, for the assurance that our suffering has a

purpose, that there is more beyond the pain. Job's questions, like our own, are rooted in a desire to see, to know, and to understand. He believed in God, but he wanted to see God.

In chapters 38–41, God finally speaks to Job. But rather than answering Job's questions directly, God reveals His own power, wisdom, and the greatness of God's creation. God challenges Job to consider the wonders of the universe, the creatures of the earth, and the boundaries of the seas, and all things that are beyond human understanding.

In this encounter, Job is overwhelmed by the majesty and mystery of God. Suddenly, he sees God not just as a distant being but as the sovereign Creator, infinitely wise and beyond human judgment. In verse 5, Job says, "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you." Job's encounter with God shifts his perspective; he realizes that seeing God means surrendering his need to understand everything.

Seeing God meant that Job now understood his place, recognizing God's authority, wisdom, and love. Job no longer needed all the answers because he had seen the One who holds them.

Job's response to God's revelation is one of humility and repentance. In verse 6, he says, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." Job is not repenting of a particular sin that caused his suffering; rather, he is repenting of the way he questioned God's character. He realizes that he had tried to put his own limited understanding over God's limitless wisdom.

How can we apply Job's experience to our own lives? We may not have the dramatic experience of hearing God's voice or seeing His presence in the

whirlwind. But we do encounter God through Scripture, through God's creation, and through the life of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). Seeing God today means recognizing God's hand at work in our lives, even when we cannot see the full picture. It means approaching God with a heart open to God's mystery, surrendering our need for control.

In our trials, like Job, we may long for answers. But God invites us to move beyond answers into relationship, where we find peace not in what we know, but in who we know. When we truly "see" God, we are often led to repentance, as Job was—not because we are guilty of wrongdoing but because we need a fresh perspective, a renewed trust in God's power, wisdom, and love.

Job's journey teaches us that while "seeing is believing," sometimes, seeing means surrendering. It means letting go of our need to understand everything and trusting that God, in God's infinite wisdom, holds all things together. Job's story encourages us to move from questioning to worship, from seeking explanations to seeking God Himself.

The Bible indeed makes space for our questions, as we see through David's psalms and Job's journey, where each turns their struggles and doubts into opportunities to draw near to God. In the hymn "I Am Thine, O Lord," we hear a similar longing for closeness and the assurance that, even amid uncertainty, God calls us to come nearer.

This hymn speaks to a desire to be fully devoted, even when we don't have all the answers. Just as Fanny Crosby writes, "Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord," the hymn invites us to bring every question, doubt, and

challenge before Him as a form of worship. Like David, who cried out to God in his psalms, we too can cry out, knowing that God welcomes us and meets us in that space.

In a time when many have stepped back from worship, each going their own way, "I Am Thine, O Lord" reminds us to draw closer. The hymn challenges us to transform our uncertainties into worship, drawing strength from our relationship with God. When we draw near, God transforms our questions into peace, and our hearts become realigned with God's purposes. This is the invitation of faith: to come nearer to the One who holds us, who answers even our unspoken questions with God's love and presence.

Dear beloved sisters and brothers in Christ, may we, like Job, come to a place where we can say, "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you." And in that vision, may we find the strength to surrender, the faith to trust, and the peace to worship. Fairfield Grace, may God's grace, peace, goodness, and mercy be with you, your family, your business, your studies, and with the lives of your children. To Christ be thanks and praise. Amen.