

HUMBLLED

Job 42:1-6

A sinner in the presence of God should be humbled.

I. PARTICIPATION (1)

- A willingness to respond to God

A. PREVIOUSLY (40:3-5)

1. Job's "answer" to God was to say nothing!
2. God rejected Job's non-answer (40:6-8)

B. PRESENTLY (42:1)

- Job is ready to respond and not retreat

II. CONFESSION (2)

- God can do as He pleases

A. GOD'S NATURE

1. Omnipotence: He has power
2. Sovereignty: He has freedom

B. JOB'S KNOWLEDGE

1. God had previously challenged Job's knowledge (see 38:3-5)
2. He knows the "who" of his suffering, but not the "why"

III. ADMISSION (3)

- My words were wrong

A. GOD'S ACCUSATION WAS RIGHT

1. I was hiding counsel without knowledge (see also 38:2)
2. I was impulsive and incorrect
3. I caused confusion about the nature and character of God

B. MY ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE WRONG

1. Declaring what I did not understand
2. Declaring what I couldn't understand
 - Things too wonderful and mysterious

IV. **SUBMISSION** (4)

- Please instruct me

A. THE PLEA

1. “Hear now!” > An urgent appeal
2. Even though what’s been said so far isn’t respectful, helpful or accurate

B. THE POSITION

1. I’ll ask, You teach – See Psalm 119:12
2. I won’t assume to know or understand things
3. I will enjoy intimate instruction from You

V. **REALIZATION** (5)

- My understanding was incomplete

A. I HEARD

1. Through Elders and Oral Tradition
2. Through “friends” who thought they were wise

B. BUT NOW I SEE

1. He saw God’s condescension (38:1 and 40:6)
2. He saw God’s creation (38:4-38)
3. He saw God’s care (38:39-39:30)
4. He saw God’s control (40:15-41:34)

VI. **RETRACTION** (6a)

- I’m dropping my case

A. GIVING UP ON THE PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF HIS “RIGHTS”

1. Recognizing that a selfish arrogance had inspired him
2. Realizing that his attitude had proven to be a barrier between himself and God

B. GIVING UP HIS ACCUSATIONS AND CLAIMS AGAINST GOD

1. Dismissing his foolish charges
2. He now considers them presumptuous and worthless
3. Who is he to challenge God ways?

VII. **CONTRITION** (6b)

- A regretful remorse

A. A GODLY SORROW OVER SIN

1. To “repent” here is not that of turning (“shub”) but sorrowing (“nacham”)
2. Here he indicates a heart-felt regret about how he had treated God
3. Exp: II Cor. 7:11 which indicates a godly sorrow that led the Corinthians to confession of sin and correction

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B. THE REMEDY FOR HIS CONDITION

1. He had wrongly complained about God (38:2)
2. He had wrongly contended with God (40:2)
3. He had wrongly condemned God (40:8)

C. A SIGH OF PEACE AMID PERIL

1. The root of the Hebrew word “repent” means to “breath deeply”
2. In repentance Job finds real relief and true peace

VIII. APPLICATIONS

- A. Don’t ignore God’s probing questions (1)
- B. Suffering may remain a mystery (2)
 1. Job didn’t say he understood or knew why he suffered
 2. Knowing why doesn’t matter when you know who!
- C. We must “beware that the authority of our opinions do not exceed our knowledge of the facts.” (3) [Layton Talbert, “Job,” p. 221]
 - We dare not define away the mystery of God - See Roman 11:34
- D. “Humility is essential for a vital relationship with God” (4)
 - [John Hartley, “The Book of Job,” p. 536]
- E. Discovered truth is better than delivered (5)
 - Don’t settle for a second-hand relationship with God
- F. Communion with God is more important than release from affliction (6a)
- G. We are not ready for healing until we sorrowfully acknowledge our sin (6b)

CONCLUSION:

Nothing had changed with Job’s health. He’s still suffering!

Yet everything has changed with Job’s heart. He’s now resting.

The key to such a change is humility

Will you be humbled? - See I Peter 5:6