

# Watch Out For Your So Called Friends



## Job 8:1-7

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**“WATCH OUT FOR SO-CALLED FRIENDS”**

**JOB 8:1-7**

**INTRODUCTION**

**IT’S GOOD TO HAVE FRIENDS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT’S GOOD TO HAVE FRIENDS THAT YOU CAN RELY ON.**

**IN THIS WORLD OF ACCEPTANCE, WE WANT TO BE ACCEPTED BY OUR PEERS AND ACQUAINTANCES; HOWEVER, THEY MAY NOT BE ALL THAT THEY APPEAR TO BE.**

**PEOPLE WILL TRY TO TELL US IF WE DON’T DO WHAT THEY’RE DOING, WE’RE NOT PART OF THE GROUP AND WE MAY FEEL LIKE WE’RE GETTING THE COLD SHOULDER.**

**BECAUSE WE WANT THEIR FRIENDSHIP, WE MAY FIND OURSELVES DOING THINGS WE KNOW WE SHOULDN’T BE DOING.**

**I REMEMBER GROWING UP AND THERE WAS A SONG OUT THAT WENT:**

***“FRIENDS, HOW MANY OF US HAVE THEM?  
FRIENDS, ONES WE CAN DEPEND ON.  
FRIENDS, HOW MANY OF US HAVE THEM?  
BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, LET’S BE FRIENDS!”***

**VERY TRUE WORDS BECAUSE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WE CALL FRIENDS ARE NOT REALLY OUR FRIENDS INDEED.**

- 1. NOT EVERYBODY THAT SAYS THEY’RE YOUR FRIENDS IS REALLY YOUR FRIEND.**
- 2. NOT EVERYBODY THAT HANGS AROUND YOU IS REALLY YOUR FRIEND.**
- 3. NOT EVERYBODY THAT GIVES YOU THINGS OR TELLS YOU THEY ARE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU IS REALLY YOUR FRIEND.**
- 4. THEREFORE, “WATCH OUT FOR SO-CALLED FRIENDS!”**

**BACKGROUND/TEXT.**

**OUR TEXT TODAY IS FOUND IN THE BOOK OF JOB.**

**ALTHOUGH IT'S THE 18<sup>TH</sup> BOOK IN THE BIBLE, BY REASON OF WHERE IT'S LOCATED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, IT'S BELIEVED TO BE THE OLDEST OR THE FIRST BOOK WRITTEN.**

**[CHAPTER 1] TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT THE WRITER. THAT HE IS A RIGHTEOUS AND PERFECT MAN, THAT HE DOES THINGS PLEASING IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.**

**BUT NO MATTER HOW WELL YOU DO THINGS, OR NO MATTER HOW WELL THINGS MAY BE GOING AROUND YOU, KNOW THAT THE ENEMY IS LYING IN WAIT TO PUT HIS HANDS ON YOU.**

**[CHAPTER 1] ALSO TELLS US THAT GOD CALLED A MEETING WITH HIS SONS, AND SATAN SHOWED UP TO THE MEETING.**

**IN TALKING WITH GOD, SATAN DECLARED THAT HE'S BEEN GOING TO AND FRO IN THE EARTH, AND WALKING ABOUT IT.**

**GOD KNEW WHAT SATAN WAS UP TO AND ASKED IF HE HAD CONSIDERED JOB.**

**SATAN KNEW THAT GOD HAD A HEDGE OF PROTECTION AROUND JOB AND COULDN'T GET HIS HANDS ON HIM.**

**WHEN GOD WITHDREW THE HEDGE, SATAN HAD OPPORTUNITY TO INFLICT PAIN AND SUFFERING ON JOB, IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROVE HIS POINT, THAT JOB WOULD CURSE GOD!**

**OF COURSE, JOB HELD HIS PEACE AND GOD PROVED JUST HOW AWESOME HE REALLY IS.**

**ALSO IN [CHAPTER 1] WE SAW HOW THE HAND OF SATAN BEGAN TO MOVE AGAINST JOB.**

**AS THE STORY UNFOLDS WE SEE:**

- 1. THE OXEN AND MULES WERE PLOWING TOGETHER AND SIBEANS TOOK THEM AWAY AND KILLED THEM.**
- 2. THE FIRE FROM GOD (OR SO THEY THOUGHT) CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND BURNED UP THE SHEEP AND THE SERVANTS.**
- 3. THE CHALDEANS CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE CAMELS, AND KILLED THE SERVANTS.**
- 4. HIS CHILDREN WERE EATING AND DRINKING TOGETHER AT THE ELDEST BROTHER'S HOUSE AND A GREAT WIND CAME AND SMOTE THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE HOUSE AND IT FELL ON THEM AND KILLED THEM.**

**YET, IN ALL OF THIS, WE SEE THAT THERE'S ALWAYS ONE WHO COMES AND SHARES THE BAD NEWS.**

**THERE'S ALWAYS ONE IN THE CROWD; THERE'S ALWAYS ONE WHO COMES AND SAYS THINGS IN A NEGATIVE LIGHT.**

**WHEN NEGATIVITY SPEAKS, WE CAN'T EXPECT POSITIVE THINGS ALL THE TIME!!**

**IN LIGHT OF THIS, JOB RESPONDS TO ALL THIS BY SAYING, "THE LORD GAVE, AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY, BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD."**

**IN [CHAPTER 2], JOB'S OWN WIFE WENT AGAINST HIM AND SAID, "CURSE GOD AND DIE!"**

**HE RESPONDS BY TELLING HER SHE SPEAKS AS A FOOLISH WOMAN. THEN HIS THREE "FRIENDS" SHOWED UP:**

- **ELIPHAZ, THE TEMANITE.** ELIPHAZ WAS CONNECTED TO ESAU AND EDOM AND THE TEMANITES WERE FAMOUS FOR THEIR WISDOM. HE SPOKE TO JOB FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE.
- **BILDAD THE SHUHITE.** BILDAD WAS PERHAPS A DESCENDANT OF SHUAH, THE YOUNGEST SON OF ABRAHAM BY KETURAH. HE SPOKE TO JOB FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HUMAN TRADITION.
- **ZOPHAR THE NAAMATHITE.** HE WAS PROBABLY FROM NAAMAH ON THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER OF JUDAH. HE SPOKE TO JOB FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HUMAN MERIT.

**WHY DID I SAY ALL THAT ABOUT JOB'S FRIENDS?**

**IT'S BECAUSE IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE FRIENDS, WE NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THEM AND DEFINITELY NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE ALL ABOUT!**

- **IF THEY AREN'T GOING TO BUILD US UP, WE NEED TO LET THEM GO!**
- **IF THEY'RE NOT GOING TO MOTIVATE US TO EXCEL, WE NEED TO LET THEM GO!**
- **IF ALL THEY WANT TO DO IS TEAR US DOWN, WE NEED TO LET THEM GO!**

**POINTS:**

**I. WATCH OUT FOR THEIR WORDS.**

**JOB IN [CHAPTER 7] HAS SHARED THAT BECAUSE OF THE CALAMITY THAT HAS BEFALLEN HIM, HE WANTS TO DIE. BILDAD IS THE SECOND OF THE THREE FRIENDS THAT BEGINS TO TALK WITH JOB AND SHARE, CONCERNING HIS SITUATION.**

**ELIAPHAZ HAD ALREADY SAID THAT GOD WOULD NOT BRING TROUBLE AND PROBLEMS ON THE RIGHTEOUS (THUS IMPLYING THAT JOB HAD DONE SOMETHING WRONG IN THE SIGHT OF GOD), YET JOB WAS SITTING RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF TROUBLE.**

**NOW BILDAD COMES RIGHT BACK WITH THE SAME LINE OF THOUGHT.**

**WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT OUR WORDS HAVE POWER AND WHEN WE SAY THINGS, WE ARE ACTUALLY SPEAKING INTO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE.**

**[PROVERBS 18:21] DEATH AND LIFE *[ARE]* IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE: AND THEY THAT LOVE IT SHALL EAT THE FRUIT THEREOF.**

**WE'VE GOT TO WATCH OUT FOR THE WORDS AND NOT ACCEPT EVERYTHING PEOPLE, OR FRIENDS, TRY TO TELL US.**

**I. WATCH OUT FOR THEIR WORDS.**

**II. WATCH OUT FOR THEIR MOTIVES.**

**NOT EVERYBODY WANTS TO SEE YOU SUCCEED.**

**WHEN YOU FIND THAT YOU HAVE A GIFT THAT OTHERS DON'T HAVE, THEY MAY BECOME JEALOUS AND TRY TO GET YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT THINGS OR MAYBE NOT DO WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DESTINED TO DO.**

**JUST BECAUSE PEOPLE GET CLOSE TO YOU DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE IN YOUR CORNER.**

**THEY MAY BE GETTING CLOSE TO YOU TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN GET FROM YOU!**

**SOMEBODY ONCE SAID, "KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE, AND YOUR ENEMIES CLOSER" THAT WAY YOU CAN ALWAYS SEE WHAT THEY ARE UP TO.**

- I. **WATCH OUT FOR THEIR WORDS.**
- II. **WATCH OUT FOR THEIR MOTIVES.**
- III. **WATCH OUT FOR THEIR ACTIONS.**

**EVEN THOUGH HIS FRIENDS CAME TO WHERE JOB WAS, THEY BROUGHT BAD NEWS TO HIM AND EVEN TRIED TO GET HIM TO REASON HIS WAY OUT OF A BLESSING.**

**LOVE IS AN ACTION WORD AND IF WE LOVE PEOPLE LIKE WE SAY WE DO, THEN THERE SHOULD BE SOME ACTION THAT SHOWS HOW MUCH WE LOVE THEM.**

**BUT BE CAREFUL, SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS TO APPEAR TO BE YOUR FRIEND AND SEE WHAT THEY CAN GET FROM YOU.**

**THERE ARE REALLY TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD – GIVERS AND TAKERS –**

**AND SOME OF OUR “SO-CALLED” FRIENDS ARE TAKERS AND ALL THEY WANT TO DO IS TAKE EVERYTHING THEY CAN FROM YOU.**

**THEY WILL SUCK THE LIFE OUT OF YOU, TRY TO TAKE AWAY YOUR DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS, AND EVEN GET YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT YOUR DESTINY!**

**TODAY, WE NEED REAL FRIENDS –**

- **FRIENDS THAT WILL BE THERE THROUGH THICK AND THIN;**
- **FRIENDS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE AND NOT DISCOURAGE;**
- **FRIENDS THAT WILL BUILD UP AND NOT TEAR DOWN;**

**CONCLUSION**

**WE NEED A FRIEND LIKE JESUS!!**

**JESUS, MUCH LIKE [PROVERBS 18;24] “IS A FRIEND THAT STICKETH CLOSER THAN ANY BROTHER.”**

- **BY HIS WORDS, HE SHARED WITH US THE WORDS OF LIFE.**
- **BY HIS MOTIVES, IT WAS NOT FOR HIMSELF, BUT FOR OUR BENEFIT.**
- **BY HIS ACTIONS, HE SHOWED US THE TRUE MEANING OF LOVE BY GIVING OF HIMSELF AND HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY!**
- **HE DIED ON CALVARY BECAUSE HE IS OUR FRIEND, CALVARY WAS NECESSARY**
  1. **IF CALVARY WAS NOT NECESSARY’ GOD WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED HIS SON TO SUFFER.**
  2. **GOD WOULD NOT HAVE PERMITTED THAT MOCKERY OF A TRIAL.**
  3. **GOD WOULD NOT HAVE REQUIRED CHRIST’S BLOOD TO BE SHED.**
  4. **GOD WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED SATAN SUCH A HEY-DAY**
  5. **GOD WOULD NOT HAVE PAID SUCH A DEAR PRICE**

**BUT, THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY HIS JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS COULD BE SATISFIED.**

**BUT, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT GOD LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE WANTED TO REDEEM US.**

1. THE BLOOD OF LAMBS AND GOATS COULD NOT FULFILL THE REQUIREMENT.
2. THE LAWS OF GOVERNMENT AND NATIONS COULD NEVER MEET THE NEED.
3. PRAYER AND FASTING COULD NEVER BE SUFFICIENT
4. SILVER AND GOLD COULD NEVER PAY THE PRICE FOR REDEMPTION.

**BUT I THANK GOD THAT CALVARY WAS NECESSARY !**

**“JESUS PAID IT ALL  
ALL TO HIM I OWE,  
SIN HAD LEFT A CRIMSON STAIN  
HE WASHED IT WHITE AS SNOW.”**

**HE DIED ON CALVARY:**

1. SO THAT YOU AND I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO HELL.
2. SO THAT YOU AND I DON'T HAVE TO YIELD TO TEMPTATION.
3. SO THAT YOU AND I DON'T HAVE TO DIE WITHOUT GOD.
4. SO THAT YOU AND I DON'T HAVE TO FACE JUDGMENT ALONE.
5. SO THAT YOU AND I DON'T HAVE TO WALLOW IN OUR GUILT.

**OH..... HE DIED  
BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WITH ALL POWER  
IN HIS HAND**

**NOW THAT'S A TRUE FRIEND!**

1. **WHEN BURDENS PRESS ME DOWN, I'VE GOT A FRIEND**
2. **WHEN I'M IN DISTRESS, I'VE GOT A FRIEND.**
3. **WHEN MY ENEMIES ASSAIL ME, I'VE GOT A FRIEND.**
4. **WHEN MY LOVED ONES FAIL ME, I'VE GOT A FRIEND.**
5. **WHEN I'M IN DOUBT, I'VE GOT A FRIEND.**
6. **WHEN IT SEEMS THAT THERE IS NO WAY OUT, I'VE GOT A FRIEND.**
7. **WHEN I'M ABUSED AND MISUSED, I'VE GOT A FRIEND.**
8. **WHEN THINGS GET ROUGH, AND THE GOING GETS TOUGH, I'VE GOT A FRIEND.**

**“WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS  
ALL OUR SIN AND GRIEVES TO BEAR  
WHAT A PRIVILEGE TO CARRY  
EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER**

**O WHAT PEACE WE OFTEN FORFEIT,  
O WHAT NEEDLESS PAINS WE BEAR,  
ALL BECAUSE WE DO NOT CARRY  
EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER.”**