



# The Gospel According to Job

June 14: Where is God?: Job 23

A Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

What do we confess by saying God is omnipresent? What do we confess by saying God is immutable?

“The properties of the divine nature are these: to be almighty, eternal, infinite, and to be everywhere present (according to the property of its nature and its natural essence, of itself), to know everything, and so on.” – The Formula of Concord

**Psalm 139:7-10** Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Job’s name may mean, “Where is my Father?” How does that question shape this book?

## Job 23:1-3

What does Job say about his complaint?

**Ruth 1:20** She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."

Who does Job want to find?

“For You, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine: beneath the water and the Word, beneath the bread and wine.” – LSB 720

## Job 23:4-7

What would Job do if he could find God? What does he envision?

What is Job’s expected response from God? How does Job characterize himself?

**1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

## Job 23:8-9

What can Job's senses not perceive?

**Psalm 10:1** Why, O LORD, do you stand afar off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

## Job 23:10-12

What does God know?

**Psalm 1:6** for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Job believes that God is testing him. What will be the outcome?

**Psalm 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! <sup>24</sup>  
And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

What has Job treasured?

**Psalm 19:9** The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

## Job 23:13-14

What does Job confess about God's nature?

**Psalm 115:3** Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

What will God do for Job?

## Job 23:15-17

What is Job's conclusion? Is this the right one? Has Job found his way to silence before God?

**Ecclesiastes 5:1-3** Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.