



The Gospel According to Job

June 21: Does God Change His Mind?: Job 24

A Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

Does God change His mind? Is He fickle or unpredictable?

Numbers 23:19 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Jonah 3:9-10 "Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Job 24:1

What does Job want from the Almighty?

What is the Day of the Lord?

Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.

Job 24:2-4

What's wrong with moving a landmark?

Proverbs 23:10-11 Do not move an ancient landmark or enter the fields of the fatherless, for their Redeemer is strong; he will plead their cause against you.

"We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income."

What problem does Job see in society?

Job 24:5-12

What are the conditions of the poor?

What final concern does Job have for the poor?

Job 24:13-17

What do light and darkness symbolize in the Scriptures?

John 3:19-20 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

What specific sins does Job mention?

“When holy people—still having and feeling original sin and daily repenting and striving against it—happen to fall into manifest sins (as David did into adultery, murder, and blasphemy [2 Samuel 11]), then faith and the Holy Spirit have left them. The Holy Spirit does not permit sin to have dominion, to gain the upper hand so it can be carried out, but represses and restrains it from doing what it wants [Psalm 51:11; Romans 6:14]. If sin does what it wants, the Holy Spirit and faith are not present.” – *The Smalcald Articles*

Job 24:18-20

What happens with the wicked? Does Job agree with his counselors here?

^{NLT} **Job 24:20** Even the sinner’s own mother will forget him. Worms will find him sweet to eat. No one will remember him. Wicked people are broken like a tree in the storm.

Job 27:13-15 This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage that oppressors receive from the Almighty: If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword, and his descendants have not enough bread. Those who survive him the pestilence buries, and his widows do not weep.

Job 24:21-25

What happens in the end to the wicked?

^{ESV} **Job 24:22** Yet God prolongs the life of the mighty by his power; they rise up when they despair of life.

^{NIV} **Job 24:22** But God drags away the mighty by his power; though they become established, they have no assurance of life.

^{NASB} **Job 24:22** But He drags off the valiant by His power; He rises, but no one has assurance of life.

What is Job’s final question in this section?