



The Gospel According to Job

August 23: Elihu Addresses Justice: Job 34

A Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

What challenge did Elihu leave with Job at the end of chapter 33?

Is it rebellious to dictate to God how He must act? What petition in the Lord's Prayer keeps us from such presumption?

Job 34:1-4

How do we know we are beginning a new speech? To whom does Elihu now appeal?

What does he ask of his hearers?

What kind of parallelism do we find in verse 2?

Job 34:5-9

According to Elihu, how does Job self-evaluate?

Job 27:2-4 As God lives, who has taken away my right, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, as long as my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils, my lips will not speak falsehood, and my tongue will not utter deceit.

Of what does Elihu accuse Job?

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.

Did Job actually say, "It profits a man nothing that he should take delight in God"?

Job 21:15 What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? And what profit do we get if we pray to him?

Job 34:10-15

What is the character of God according to Elihu?

What would happen if God took back His spirit and breath?

Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

What does this say about the dilemma between God and Job?

Job 34:16-20

Who does Elihu address in this section?

How does God view justice?

Job 34:21-30

What response do you have knowing, “For his eyes are on the ways of man”?

Matthew 10:29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

How does God respond to the wicked? How does God respond to godless rulers?

How does Elihu answer the question of God’s silence?

Job 34:31-37

What is Elihu’s challenge to Job?

What do you think of Elihu’s suggested prayer, “teach me what I cannot see”?

Psalms 19:12-13 Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

How does Elihu evaluate Job’s speeches?