

Measure of All Things  
Proper 7 - Year B - 05/30/2021  
Psalm Reading: 107:1-3, 23-32  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Mark 4:35-41, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Job 38:1-11

Job is one of those difficult books of the Old Testament that challenges and mystifies us, at the same time it has us nodding our heads saying, "How true."

The problem of natural disaster vs. human evil.

Our reading comes from near the end of the book of Job.

Job has been complaining because of his treatment.

Loss of wealth

Loss of Family

Loss of health (sores)

Perhaps the worst of it is the persecution by his friends: Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar

Shoulda, Woulda, Coulda...

The only thing he has not lost is his wife and his dignity.

His friends keep saying he must have done something to tick God off:

Problems in this life punishment for our sins.

Some of this is true

Not God, but our circumstance.

But we know that Job's dire circumstances are the result of a disagreement between God and the *Satan* or advocate.

At one point Job demands justice from God (Job 7:20). He demands to meet God face to face. Then to Job's great surprise guess who shows up?

Define and history of : "Man: the measure of all things."

Protagoras: 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. puts human judgment first.

What we think of any issue is the end-all, be-all.

But also: Humanity as God's most wonderful creation.

Because we have the capacity to reason, the capacity to use tools, we are an amazing creature. But, my friends, we are but creatures:

Define "Creature"

Sure, made in the image of God, but...

(V.2) Job's question meaningless, because his understanding is lacking in comparison to God.

(V.3) Brace yourself like a man (Gird your loins.)

Readiness

How to Gird your loins.

(V.4-6) Construction is manlike, but scale is vast.

(V.7) Acclamation

We, as individuals, are tiny in the grand scheme of things. Yet we worry about things on a grand scale...

Worried about when the sun will explode

But no sense of proportion, the earwig behind my razor blade.

God so great that the Lord not only made the waters, but contains them in the ocean...acts of God. But still concerned with the life of a single human (Job).

Theodicy is an effort to deal with the problem of evil, a question which has assailed humanity since the dawn of consciousness. The truth is: we were given the capacity to understand Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden. But we were also given the tools and the capacity, by God to overcome those happenstances we might call evil, which in truth are simply natural phenomena.

The greatness of God:

The great God promises to watch over us.

Does great things.

Sacrifices for us.

Makes all right in the end.

The body of Christ, being a part of something far more vast than we are.

So, in the book of Job, we find that Job is puzzled by why bad things happen to good people. He confronts God directly and God's response is not the reasoned, measured, logic that we might expect from a philosopher or scientist, but it is rather for me a more convincing proof. We find out that God is the great creator, the great builder, the great sustainer. This does not

mean that God is obliged to make our lives smooth like a pond in a dead calm. Such a response would not allow us to grow, would not allow us to experience the fullness of life. Rather, we would simply it means that God

Ἀμήν

Resources:

<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/how-to-gird-up-your-loins-an-illustrated-guide/> (Accessed 06/16/21)

NIB Vol. 4, beginning p.598.

Alter, Robert. The Hebrew Bible, 564.

Bible NIV

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/theodicy>  
(Accessed 06/17/21)