

LCC Sermon on Job 31

Story: "Punchable" Face

- Recently I was at one of Jalen's basketball games. The game was intense and whenever, someone hit's a 3, everyone gives a loud "BOOOM!"
- Now the way we normally sit is, all the parents from one team sit on one side of the bleachers, and all the parents from the other team sit on the other side. So, I subtly glance over to the opponent's crowd and I notice one parent making faces at me! (Give an example!)
- So, every time we cheered, he would make faces mocking us
- I immediately start having bad thoughts like "you know he would be fun to punch him in the face", "he has one of them punchable faces" And I can feel myself getting amped up
- I just started daydreaming about punching that guy in the face. When suddenly someone asked, "Hey you're a Pastor right?" I looked up and it was one of the parents on our team and he had just found out that I was a pastor
- But him saying that snapped me out of my devilish rage! Oh, right I am a Pastor! I'm a Christian
- I can't just go around punching people. I have to do the right thing.

Everyone has a reason to do the right thing. Some people do the right thing for practical reasons like if you want to make friends, it probably best to be kind. For other people, there's a social pressure to do the right thing because we want people to like us.

But these motivations aren't always fool proof because sometimes social pressure encourages people to be mean. Sometimes it feels good to do the wrong thing like getting revenge. We need a better moral compass- not based on our feelings because feelings change quite often- need something consistent

So, my big question today is: where do Christians get their moral compass from? Our Bible story teaches us that our moral compass comes from being consistently aware of God's coming judgment (now some are uncomfortable with judgment, but we went in depth with it during our Revelation series, so check it out)

But remembering coming judgment- that we are accountable to God, helps us commit to both fairness and generosity. That's what we learn from our Bible passage today. Let's read from Job 31:13-23, here we find Job explaining why he's committed to doing the right thing. Let's read it:

Power Point Image #1 and #2

**13 "If I have denied justice to any of my servants,
whether male or female,
when they had a grievance against me,
14 what will I do when God confronts me?
What will I answer when called to account?
15 Did not he who made me in the womb make them?
Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?
16 "If I have denied the desires of the poor
or let the eyes of the widow grow weary,
17 if I have kept my bread to myself,
not sharing it with the fatherless—**

**18 but from my youth I reared them as a father would,
and from my birth I guided the widow—
19 if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing,
or the needy without garments,
20 and their hearts did not bless me
for warming them with the fleece from my sheep,
21 if I have raised my hand against the fatherless,
knowing that I had influence in court,
22 then let my arm fall from the shoulder,
let it be broken off at the joint.
23 For I dreaded destruction from God, and for fear of his splendor I could not do such things.**

Power Point Image #3

Based on this passage our first point is that 1. The knowledge of God's final judgment leads us to fairness.

Story: The wrong change

Power Point Image #4

- **In high school, I was at Burger King and I ordered a whopper meal. But the cashier gave me the wrong change! She gave me more than she should have.**
- **And I was like yes! I can use this extra money for KFC Toonie Tuesday later tonight!**
- **But of course, I started to feel convicted- convicted to tell her the truth that she made a mistake.**
- **So, I told her that she gave me the wrong change and she was so thankful...and then we fell in love...jk..but it sucked for me because no more free Toonie Tuesday but I guess that was the right thing to do**

I always feel like God is watching and that should be the case because he's real! And I need to treat him that way because many Christians don't live like God is real- that he's not watching. But Job's mindset was God was always watching and he's accountable to him. Let's read what he says in the first couple verses of passage.

Power Point Image #5

**13 "If I have denied justice to any of my servants,
whether male or female,
when they had a grievance against me,
14 what will I do when God confronts me?
What will I answer when called to account?"**

So, we find out that Job feared the day that God would confront him and call him to account for the things he did wrong. And that's why he was careful to treat his servants fairly. And in the verses leading up to our passage, we find out his fear of God also made him faithful to his wife

His fear of God made him honest with everyone. And it's the same for us, we too are supposed to fear God like Job did. I know some people are uncomfortable with fear being a motivator.

But I think fear can be a good thing. Fear can keep us out of trouble. For example, we wear seat belts because we fear the consequences of not wearing one if we get into a crash.

We don't drink and drive because we fear killing someone. I don't cheat on my wife, because I fear what it would do to her and our marriage! I fear what it would do to my kids. This is a healthy fear, a good fear to have! This is the type of fear we should have with God.

We should always be aware that evil has consequences. Evil will meet its end with the judgment of God. But God doesn't only judge us for evil, but he also judges us for the good that we do. The knowledge of God's judgment will always lead us to the path of hope and joy.

Power Point Image #6

This was Paul's attitude later on in the Bible. In 2 Corinthians 5:9-10, it says:

9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Paul knew if he pleases God by doing what is good, God would someday give him what is due. But if Paul did what was evil, God would also judge that too. So, in the end, the world will be fair. Good will always win in the end.

Power Point Image #7

And when we remember that, we will always try to be fair to the people around us, just as Job was fair. But it's not just about fairness, and that leads to my next point: 2. The knowledge of God's final judgment leads us to charity.

Power Point Image #8

Story: Mr. Beast

- **When my kids were younger, they loved this guy on YouTube named Jimmy "Mr. Beast" Donaldson! His videos were always entertaining like he recreated Squid Game and the winner got \$456,000!¹**

Power Point Image #9

- **But recently, he's been doing more videos focused on charitable endeavors where he literally gives away millions of dollars! He gave a homeless man \$10,000! And then he paid for cataract surgery for 1000 blind people.**
- **In a video called "Rebuilding Homes for Tornado Survivors," , Donaldson built 14 houses in Kentucky for those recently affected by a devastating tornado. Another video, entitled "I Gave Away \$2,700,000 of Free Clothes," details how he partnered with Champion to donate \$2,700,000 worth of clothing to the people in the Hopi Indian Reservation in Arizona. In "We**

¹ <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/tapestry/mr-beast-charity-controversy-1.6846810>

Built Wells In Africa,” Donaldson built wells for two villages in Cameroon to provide clean drinking water for those in the community.²

Mr. Beast can generate these extravagant and expensive projects because his videos get so many views that creates a lot of ad revenue. So, there’s a business end behind everything he’s doing. But his business model is very interesting.

In a YouTube video³, he explained that he invests everything back into his videos. If he has a million dollars in his company’s bank account, he will spend a million dollars on the next video. If he has five million dollars available, he will spend five million dollars on the video.

And he says he’s constantly stressed about the possibility of running out of money⁴. Most people wouldn’t want to do that kind of thing, because it’s pretty risky. But I think we can argue that it’s a very Christian way of thinking, to invest everything we have for others, to not just stop at fairness, but to move on to generosity.

This is what Job did as well. Let’s read v.16-23 again:

Power Point Image #10 and #11

**16 “If I have denied the desires of the poor
or let the eyes of the widow grow weary,
17 if I have kept my bread to myself,
not sharing it with the fatherless—
18 but from my youth I reared them as a father would,
and from my birth I guided the widow—
19 if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing,
or the needy without garments,
20 and their hearts did not bless me
for warming them with the fleece from my sheep,
21 if I have raised my hand against the fatherless,
knowing that I had influence in court,
22 then let my arm fall from the shoulder,
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23 For I dreaded destruction from God, and for fear of his splendor I could not do such things.**

Job felt he was given riches, and he was accountable to God with what he did with it. If Job had not been charitable, that would have been sin! If he had not addressed a need especially when he had the power (great wealth) to do something about it, then it would have broken his relationship with God.

We are meant to learn from this kind of attitude, because there is so much poverty out in the world. There is material poverty but also social and spiritual poverty. But it’s the norm among North American Christians to hoard for ourselves.

² <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/mrbeasts-philanthropy/>

³ [Why MrBeast Doesn't Make Money on YouTube #shorts #mrbeast](#)

⁴ [MrBeast Is NOT Rich \(youtube.com\)](#)

We have convinced ourselves that we earned everything we have, and it's ours. And we cling to it with closed fists. But the mark of someone who really fears God is someone that says, "God gave me this gift of success and riches" and I need to use these things to help and bless others, not just use it for myself

We need to find people like that and emulate them because that's what God is like! The greatest story in the Bible is about a world that was lost and filled with poverty- material poverty, social poverty, and spiritual poverty. But God did not sit back and leave us to fend for ourselves. He was generous!

He sent his Son, Jesus, and he gave up everything for us. And one day, Jesus will put an end to all poverty. He's going to make something new. But for the time being, he asks us to trust him when it's time to be generous.

Conclusion

As we conclude, our big question today was: where do Christians get their moral compass from? Our passage tells us that our moral compass comes from being aware of God's coming judgment. When we remember that God will hold us accountable for evil, it will motivate us to be fair- to do what is right.

But we also need to remember that God judges us for good. He encourages us to be incredibly generous, and to use everything that he gave us to do something about poverty- material, social and spiritual. And if we do that, we can look forward to God's judgment because that will be the day that God makes everything right.