

Job (selected passages)
Series – The Beginning of Wisdom
Message – Learning from Elihu
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Fifth Reformed Church
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Elihu's Entrance

- Job 32:1-22
- Elihu was _____.
- Job 32:6
- If you have to begin something you're going to say with a caveat, maybe you should _____ to speak until you don't need a caveat.
- Elihu was _____ proud.
- Job 32:10, 16-17
- If you have to tell people you know a lot, before you speak, maybe you should _____ to speak.
- Job was the greatest man among all the people of the East (Job 1:3).
- Job 32:18-20
- Elihu was _____ of words.

"I hesitate to say it, but there is a rather crude, comic image here. Elihu is the one who is 'full of wind,' and he says that that wind is about to burst forth. You get the idea. As one commentator puts it, 'Elihu is flatulent with words'" (Bill & Will Kynes, Wrestling with Job, p.158-159).

Elihu's Claims

- Elihu claimed to understand the problem.
- Job 33:8-10
- Followers of Jesus _____ to others and seek to understand.
- Elihu claimed to speak for God.

- Job 36:1-4
- Hearing from God for ourselves and for others
- The gift of prophecy – 1 Cor. 14:1, 3, 22, 29-33
- Followers of Jesus _____ what they think they've heard from the Lord for others with "mights" and "maybes".

Elihu's Primary Mistake

- Elihu thought Job needed to know more about God.
- Job didn't need to know more _____ God; he needed to know God.
- Hebrews 1:1-3
- Encountering God – lightning bolts & lightning bugs

Reflection Questions

1. Share a time when you've seen another speak out of anger in a way that was unwise.
2. How do you sense when you're edging up on using too many words? What are the internal or external cues that help you know?
3. Elihu missed what Job was saying and built his response around that misunderstanding. What skills to you engage to listen to others actively so as to ensure you are understanding them? Jot down the skills used by those in your group.
4. Have you ever been on the receiving end of a "God told me to tell you" statement? How did that feel and what happened?
5. Do you feel that you have heard from the Lord on behalf of another person? Did you share this with them? How did it go?
6. How is God getting your attention?
7. What might God be saying to you?
8. What is your next faithful step?