

Week 44  
302/63

**Transforming Daily**  
***“...as I have seen...”***  
*Job 4:8*

A perspective can lead to both a positive and a negative experience. On the one hand, a perspective can be based on the facts and prove to provide a reasonable solution. On the other hand, a perspective can be influenced by feelings and not facts. A perspective can be derived by jumping to conclusions. Usually those feelings and conclusions are of a personal nature. Perspectives are very closely related to opinions, and usually perspectives as well as opinions bare no exception to the rules.

This was the case with Job's three friends. They jumped to the conclusion that since Job was suffering he must have unconfessed sin in his life. The first friend to speak basically contradicts the opening words of the book of Job by implying that Job was experiencing what he was experiencing because he wasn't innocent or upright. He even goes on to say that he knows that what Job is going through was of sin because of some personal insight gained through a night sleep "vision" that he had. (CAUTION: It is very dangerous to attribute personal extra-biblical experience to the work of God especially when one is undiscerning of the details regarding such an experience. Remember, if your experience can't be corroborated with Scripture, treat it as suspect, and test the spirits as the Bible says.)

If you've ever been on the receiving end of such treatment, that one berates you based on their perspective, you will be very careful not to do that to someone else. The Bible even tells the believer not to judge another unless they desire to be judged in the same fashion. Our vision is limited. We can't see as God sees with infinite wisdom and all knowledge. The best approach to consoling someone who is in adversity is to listen and pray. And if they ask you for your counsel, be extremely humble and kind regarding their experience, not yours. My wife reminded me the other day about an old Amish proverb that says, "Listen and silent are spelled with the same letters."

Do you often jump to conclusions? Are you fast with some "word" of advice on how or why something is the way how or why something is? Are the first words out of your mouth, "I would have done it differently?" or, "If it were me I would . . .?" How about the one I struggle with the most, "I told you so?" I have to continually remind myself that not everything is as I have seen.