

CURSE GOD AND DIE

“His wife said to him, ‘Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!’” (Job 2:9)

Words, as you know, are not generated in a vacuum. Jesus said: **“the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart” (Matt 15:18)**. The words we speak, like water drawn from a deep well, reveal the nature of the well itself. Consequently, we know something about the heart of Job’s wife from her words. Since Job spoke differently from his wife, it is safe to assume that his heart was different from hers. Remember, Job had done nothing wrong, yet the devil still took away his possessions, his family, and ultimately his health. In spite of this, Job still spoke kindly about God. His heart was so pure that he did not sin with his words by charging God with wrongdoing (Job. 1:21 - 22). The purity of Job’s words reflect the purity of his heart.

Job’s wife, however, spoke bitter words. She was apparently displeased that Job was still holding on to his integrity, and advised him to “curse God and die”. Her bitter words reflect a bitter heart. He responded that she was talking like a “foolish” woman (Job. 2:10). The Hebrew word translated as “foolish” is “nabal”. According to the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia it refers to someone who is “shamelessly immoral”. Remember Abigail’s husband was named Nabal, and he was a “man of Belial”. His wife felt he was a fool and therefore appropriately named (1 Sam. 25:25). Apparently Job’s wife was a little like both Abigail and Nabal. She criticized her husband like Abigail, and was foolish like Nabal himself. Her own bitter words testify against her.

Note this contrast! God saw Job as the greatest man on earth. His wife apparently didn’t. God saw Job as someone who was blameless and upright. His wife apparently didn’t. God saw Job as someone who feared the Lord and turn away from evil (See Job. 1:8). His wife, however, had criticism for her husband on the tip of her tongue and advised him to curse God and die.

Unfortunately, Job’s wife was not the only woman with a distorted view of her husband’s standing before God. The original sin in Eden was made possible because the wicked one successfully called into question what Adam told Eve. Satan smirked and said: “Did God really say, ‘you must not eat from any tree in the garden’”? (Gen. 3:1) For some inexplicable reason Eve gave more credence to the words of a stranger than she did to her own husband. The Scriptures are explicit: “Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner” (1 Tim 2:14). Obviously, Eve should have had more respect for her husband.

Or consider Zipporah, the wife of Moses. God elevated Moses above every other man on earth. God had a closer relationship with Moses than any other prophet. God spoke with Moses face to face, and not in riddles (Nu. 12:8). God apparently had a higher view of Moses than his wife did, for she spoke disparagingly of him as a “bridegroom of blood” (Ex. 4:25).

Or consider, David, the man after God’s own heart. This was the man God chose to lead His people and promised that there would never fail to be one of his descendants on the throne of Israel forever (1 Ki. 9:5). When David danced before the Lord with all his might, God was pleased but his wife was not. In fact, his wife Michal despised him in her heart (2 Sam. 6:14 - 16).

How is it possible that men like Adam, Job, Moses, and David could have such a high standing with God, and such a low standing with their wives? Even though we may not be able to answer this question dogmatically, let us pursue it a bit further. The original reason for woman, as you know, was to be a “helper suitable” for her husband (Gen. 2:18). This leads us to ask the obvious. Did Eve really help Adam? Was she “suitable” for him as God intended, or did she fail in the very role for which she was created.?

In the Eden of perfection it was obviously easier for Eve to be the perfect “helpmeet” than it was for Job’s wife many years later. Perhaps it was easier for both of them than it is today for the modern wife. Be that as it may, may every wife who reads these words help her husband to hold on to his integrity. May no one ever suggest that anyone curse God and die. While we should honor our fathers every day, may this Father’s Day be a special day of honor where we encourage every man to live a long life and to hold on to his integrity.