

Message #33

Job 31:1-40

It amazes me as to how many immoral scandals turn up in the lives of famous people. From the world of politics, to the world of sports, to the world of entertainment, to the world of religion one scandal after another surfaces, proving the biblical point that the heart is truly deceitful and is desperately wicked.

Just because the heart is depraved does not automatically mean one is plunged into immoral things. The truth is, **we are all sinful, but we are not all scandalous.** That point was certainly true when it came to Job.

If we could turn back time and crawl into the private life of Job, we would discover that Job was a sinner like everyone else, but he was also a man who was very real. He was not involved in any scandal. He was not sneaking around in some form of immorality. He was a man of integrity. He lived what he believed and he lived what he taught. He was not some behind scenes hypocrite who was secretly crossing lines in some bizarre life of sin.

There are two important grammatical matters we need to observe from this text:

First—Job uses the “if” clause some nineteen times in this chapter (**31:5, 7 (3 times), 9 (twice), 13, 16-17, 19, 21, 24-26, 29, 31, 33, 38-39**). These clauses indicate that Job is serious that “if” he has done anything to deserve any of this, he is willing to pay the consequences.

Second—the pronouns “I,” “my,” or “me” occur some 78 times in these forty verses. Job is honestly discussing and defending himself before others and before God. If he had done some secret wrong, he is prepared to face the music for it.

Keep in mind Job has no one functioning as his defense attorney. No one is defending his character or godliness so Job had to represent himself because no one else would do it. What he says here is the truth and it is right.

JOB HAD DONE NOTHING IMMORAL OR EVIL TO DESERVE ALL OF THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM, AND HE IS PREPARED TO PERSONALLY FACE GOD’S JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENTS IF HE HAD.

Here is a real man of real integrity. He had a real righteousness and it is no wonder that God classified him as the most righteous man on this earth. In fact, God said “there is no one like him on the earth” (1:8). Job was willing to go into God’s court and receive God’s judgment. He had not done the kinds of evil things that can bring the judgment of God.

As near as I can determine, Job gives us a personal look at his private life and there are eleven specific violations against God that he did not commit.

VIOLATION #1 – Job did not get involved in immorality with an unmarried virgin. **31:1-4**

Job had been a very wealthy, powerful and successful man. He had a wife and he had children. There is no question that wealthy, powerful and successful men tend to draw unmarried, beautiful women toward them. Every now and then you will see some old geeky-looking Hollywood film director who seems to have some young pretty woman at his side. That is the way the world works. Job did not think or act like that.

In fact the Hebrew word “gaze” (bin) (v. 1) is one that refers to looking at something and loving it to the point that you search it out so that you may examine it (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 113-114). Back in Job’s day in the Middle East, most men believed this action was okay. Many men were involved with multiple women, but not Job.

Job saw a lot of beautiful women in his day, but he never went after any one of them and in **verse two** we learn one reason why; **Job feared God and he knew that Almighty God will pay back one who is immoral.** There are two things Job thought about when it came to immorality.

(Thought #1) - Job thought about the judgment of God. **31:2-3**

Job knew God pays back those in immorality with calamity and disaster (**31:3**).

(Thought #2) - Job knew that God saw everything he did (v. 4).

It is very clear that God views sexual immorality as a different level of sin. Paul commanded that N.T. Grace Age believers “abstain from sexual immorality” (I Thess. 4:3). Nothing will take away the blessings of God faster than sexual immorality. Job says, never once did I get involved in sexual immorality.

VIOLATION #2 – Job did not live a life that was false or deceitful. **31:5-8**

Job never drifted off the path of righteousness and truth so he could live his life in some deceitful and sinful way. He was fully prepared to have God judge his life because his life had been one of honest integrity. This specifically sits in a context of moral integrity.

Job may stumble and sin, but never was his walk in life one of persistent falsehood or deceit. He was not sneaking around in some immoral or deceitful manner. In fact, Job was so sure of this that he was willing to starve to death if he had turned from the path of honesty and righteousness (**31:7-8**). Dr. Samuel Cox said Job had an “unimpeachable integrity.”

VIOLATION #3 – Job did not get involved in immorality with any woman. **31:9-12**

Job was never enticed into sexual immorality by any woman, married or unmarried. In fact he was so pure on this issue that if he had been guilty, he was willing to have his wife to be taken from him and have sexual relations with many others (v. 10).

Job considered sexual immorality to be a lustful crime and sin which would bring judgment by judges, and destruction to himself (v. 12). Job was a faithful man to his wife physically. As a man of God he had not ever been lured into sexual immorality with any woman.

In both the O.T. and the N.T., sexual morality is a key to leadership integrity and Job had this kind of integrity.

VIOLATION #4 – Job had never mistreated his servants. 31:13-15

Job had people working for him. He never mistreated anyone. It is clear that when you are in management, some disgruntled employees complain about you and when that happened to Job, he never took the position that he was better than everyone else. He viewed his servants as he did himself—both had been formed by Almighty God (31:15). Job knew, as an employer, that he would give an account to God (31:14) and so he always tried to be fair with those who worked for him.

VIOLATION #5 – Job had never mistreated the poor. 31:16-23

Poor people, widows and orphans found a friend in Job. He apparently opened his home to both orphan boys and girls (31:18), he provided warm clothing for those who needed it (31: 19-20) and he never took any advantage of any of these people (31:21). In fact, Job was so sure of this that he was willing to lose his arms as a judgment of God if this were not true (31:22-23).

VIOLATION #6 – Job had never let money become his idol. 31:24-28

Let us remember that Job was a very wealthy man. It is obvious from the preceding verses that Job used much of his wealth to help others and he was never lured into any immorality.

He did not put any confidence in his money (31:24). He did not boast because of his great wealth (31:25). He did not worship the sun or the moon, no matter how spectacular (31:26-27), because he realized that this would be a serious sin that would bring the judgment of God (31:28).

It is obvious that when it came to Job and his money that he did seek first the kingdom of God.

**VIOLATION #7 – Job had never vindictively rejoiced in victory over enemies.
31:29-30**

As we are seeing and learning, Job had his share of enemies. Some were blatant and some were secret. Never did Job find emotional joy in seeing his enemies killed or hit with evil. He did not ever ask God to curse an enemy. It is obvious that God did track down Job's enemies and even at this moment, God was keeping track of even the negative words people were saying against Job, but Job never flaunted this in anyone's face. He did not gloat when God shattered his enemies.

VIOLATION #8 – Job had always been generous to others. **31:31-32**

People who lived with Job and ate with Job were always satisfied with what he provided. Job always saw to it that people had food to eat and a nice place to stay. He took people in and fed them a good meal and made sure they had a roof over their head at night. He was a very generous and hospitable man.

VIOLATION #9 – Job did not ever try to cover his sin. **31:33-34**

Here is one of the great keys to Job's life; he dealt with his sin honestly. If he sinned, he ran straight to God and admitted it. He did not try to cover it like Adam. He would go out and offer proper sacrifices and got right with God and it did not matter to him who knew it or saw it.

Had Job really done something that brought this on, he would have openly admitted it. This was not the kind of man who covered up transgressions. He faced them and dealt with them.

VIOLATION #10 – Job did not have one person who would defend him. **31:35-37**

Even corrupt, guilty people get some sort of legal defense. Not Job. No one would defend him. People around Job knew that everything he was saying was true but no one would come to his defense. Job could only cry out to God.

Here is real integrity. It is so easy for people to say they did not do something, but when they say it and know God is the witness of it, that is another matter.

VIOLATION #11 – Job did want to know what he had done wrong to deserve this.
31:38-40

Job was willing and prepared to face any consequence for any sin. If these things were not true and there were things against him, Job wanted to know and he was prepared to live life with all the negative consequences. But Job had not done anything that would merit this evil treatment.

Notice the end of **verse 40**, "The words of Job are ended." There does come a point when you say I have said what I am going to say and I am done talking. Job was a righteous man of integrity. People had verbally belittled him, battered him and butchered him. His crime was that he loved God and tried to do what God wanted him to do in his life. His so-called friends abandoned him and even they ridiculed him.

There are some very practical and important lessons to draw from this chapter:

1. One who is right with God does not cover sin; he faces it and confesses it.
2. One right with God knows whether or not he has done something to deserve the judgment of God.

3. One right with God is not afraid to face the honest judgment of God with all of its negative ramifications because he knows he is right with God.
4. When one right with God is hit with satanic adversity, many will forget about all the righteous positives and will falsely accuse and slander.
5. When one right with God is hit with satanic adversity, many will abandon you and you will feel all alone.
6. It is not wrong for one to state truth and facts and defend himself before others and before God.