

Job 29:11-25

When the ear heard, then it blessed me, And when the eye saw, then it approved me; Because I delivered the poor who cried out, The fatherless and the one who had no helper. The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, And I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind, And I was feet to the lame. I was a father to the poor, And I searched out the case that I did not know. I broke the fangs of the wicked, And plucked the victim from his teeth.

"Then I said, 'I shall die in my nest, And multiply my days as the sand. My root is spread out to the waters, And the dew lies all night on my branch. My glory is fresh within me, And my bow is renewed in my hand.' "Men listened to me and waited, And kept silence for my counsel. After my words they did not speak again, And my speech settled on them as dew. They waited for me as for the rain, And they opened their mouth wide as for the spring rain. If I mocked at them, they did not believe it, And the light of my countenance they did not cast down. I chose the way for them, and sat as chief; So I dwelt as a king in the army, As one who comforts mourners.

Tumbleweeds and Oak Trees

Galen Anderson wrote, "A man's life is like either the tumbleweed or the oak tree. Some people just grow like the weed. They are of no value in their youth, and as the years of life come they break loose and become a blotch on society... Then there are those whose lives are like the oak. They have turned from the frivolity of this life and have invested in things that have genuine worth. Their influence for good will live on in the lives of others after they are gone."

Job was such an oak tree. His is a testimony of care, comfort and concern: "I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy" (Job 29:12-13). The reason for Job's impact on others was acknowledged by God: "...there is none like him (Job) in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil" (Job 1:8).

Job's "uprightness" was not a coincidence! In defending his integrity, he reveals that his life was the outcome of a defined commitment before the Lord (see Job 31). Job was committed to mental purity: "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?" (Job 31:1), to total honesty: "If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit; Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity" (Job 31), and, to moral integrity: "If mine heart have been deceived by a woman, or if I have laid wait at my neighbour's door; Then let my wife grind another man's grain" (Job 31).

Unlike most of the society of his day, Job was committed to social equality: "If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me; What then shall I do when God riseth up?" (Job 31). Further, Job was also committed to human sympathy: "If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate: Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone" (Job 31). The remainder of the chapter indicates that Job refused to trust in his wealth rather than God (Job 31:24-34), and always treated even his enemies with graciousness (Job 31:29-30).

Job was a model citizen, who's desire was not to be popular, but to live before His God with an upright heart, as an expression of gratitude in the Lord for the gift of eternal life: "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:25-26).

A life given to God will influence through time as well as last an eternity. Are you oak or tumbleweed?

What is my response:
