

Sermon Title: “Sovereign in Silence”

Primary Text: Job 22-27

This week Pastor Zach examined **Job 23-24** as a representative argument from the third Cycle of speeches in the book of **Job**. As we heard on Sunday, the three friends have increasingly grown agitated and even angry as Job refuses say he had done something to “deserve” the suffering he was enduring.

This passage is particularly helpful for us as believers, for there are indeed times when we *do* trust that God is sovereign and in control...but we don’t necessarily feel a “presence” that brings that comfort. What we need to understand from this text is that though God may not *feel* present in our lives (or in the world), He remains sovereign, powerful, and preset. Much of our time on Sunday was spent recognizing that whether we are feeling isolated in our personal life or see the “lack of response” in the world as a whole, God is still present and still working.

There is comfort in that, but we shouldn’t move to quickly to trying to be encouraged. It’s important that we recognize that there *are* times where we will feel sorrow and mourning... even **Jesus** prayed in anguish in the garden before He was led to the cross! Ultimately, we see that the final promise Jesus gave His people before ascending was that not only did Jesus have all power, but He promised to be **with** us always, even if we don necessarily feel it in that moment.

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

Matthew 28:18-20

Habakkuk 1:2-5

2 Peter 3:8-12

John 3:16-17

Questions to Consider this week:

- Pastor Zach talked about the danger of evaluating spiritual health by how we “feel” in that moment. While Pastor talked specifically about judging the *absence* of good feelings, have you experienced times when you *felt* healthy but knew you weren’t?
- Pastor Zach used the phrase “Justice delayed is not justice Denied.” Why is that phrase a hard one in your life? Are there moments that trusting God’s *timing* has been difficult? If not, think about how someone you know might feel that way (especially in today’s broader culture) and how can sharing the **Gospel** be an encouragement to them?
- Job’s sober realization at the end of **Chapter 23** is not a feeling of comfort but of terror. Have there been times in your life when you have both rested in confidence of your position through Christ with God, but been terrified? Why might that sometimes be a *good* thing?

Guided Prayer

*Lord Jesus, I know that You are present even when I don’t **feel** that You are present. Help me trust Your word and Your promise that you are with us always. Remind me that you are still working, and you still know what I am going through, and what is happening in the world. Give me comfort so that I can share that comfort with others today. -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship:

“Unspeakable Joy” (Vertical Worship)

<https://youtu.be/2NnYbfYVcE?si=OOT4RXycqt4K5HuK>