

UNIT 3: THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE – PART 2

LESSON 3 – Experiences vs. Scripture



Introduction

- What we want to learn:
 - Our experiences are limited to our human perception



Introduction

- What we want to do with what we learn:
 - Stand firm on the truth of Scripture, even when it's difficult



Scripture Focus

- Job 38:1-18; 42:1-6
- Ephesians 4:17-24
- Luke 12:15-31,2
- Peter 2:1-3



Opening Prayer

Lord, I am asking you to give me eyes to see Your Word, a mind that understands Your Word, and a heart that embraces Your Word. Without Your help, I am lost. Thank You for loving me and teaching me through Your Word. Amen.



Anchor Statement

Human experience is limited, unlike the divine and eternal perspective of God. God's Word is wiser than anything worldly wisdom can teach me.



OVERVIEW



Overview

- People



Context and Details

Job

Author: possibly Job or Elihu

Time frame: likely before Moses

Purpose: to underscore how humanity is unable to see life as God does, especially when facing the nature of suffering



Context and Details

Ephesians

Author: Paul

Time frame: 60 or 61 AD

Purpose: to let the church at Ephesus (with whom he was very close) know how he was faring in prison; and to teach



Context and Details

Luke

Author: Luke, a doctor; a Gentile

Time frame: ~60 AD

Purpose: to write an accurate account of the life of Jesus so as to present Jesus as Savior, fully God and fully man



Context and Details

2 Peter

Author: Peter

Time frame: ~64-67 AD

Purpose: focuses a great deal on grace in the face of persecution



THE SETTING



The Setting

- Job's life was filled with strife for a while
- His 'friends' weren't a big help during his lowest moments
- Their view of justice was limited to their human experience



THE MAIN POINT



The Main Point

- True life is found in the truth of God's Word
- It's worth it to root our lives in Scripture rather than morph and change based on the differing ideas and opinions that our world offers up



THE LEAD IN



Goal

To examine how our experiences
can push us to conform, even if we
know the truth



Video

- **What to do when our experiences of the world and surrounding voices give us messages that conflict with scripture**
- **Asch Conformity Experiment**



Question

- What do you think you would've done if you were part of this experiment?



THE MAIN EVENT



Goal

- To help think about our experiences with the world through the truth of Scripture rather than judging Scripture through our experiences



God's Wisdom and Faithfulness

- When we align our thoughts and actions with Scripture, even when it contradicts cultural norms or personal preferences, we show our trust in God's wisdom and faithfulness



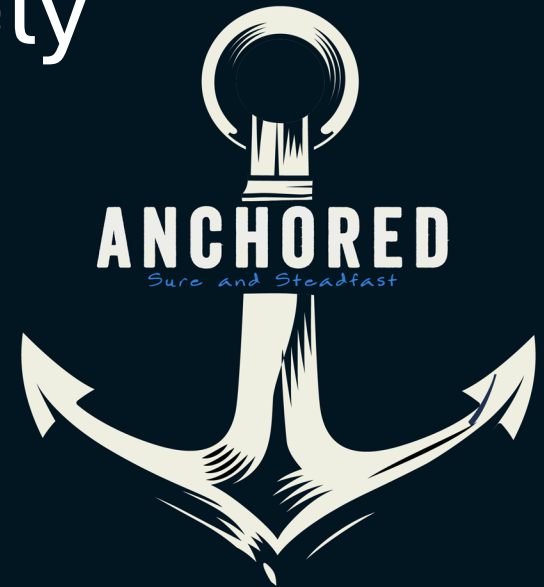
Job

- His friends couldn't understand how a just God would allow those things to happen to a relatively good person like Job
- None of their conclusions matched up with who God is



Job 38:1-18

- Like us, Job knows NOTHING compared to God
- God is saying we are completely unable to determine what is divinely just
- We are not the all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-seeing Creator



Experience

- Beginning guitar lessons
- Sore fingers
- Your instructor has a larger perspective and more wisdom
- Initial pains are small in the grand scheme of things



Job 42:1-6

- What stands out to you about Job's response to God?



Thoughts

- List a few ways that your experiences might lead you to question what is written in Scripture



Matthew 5:43-48

- There are a lot of things we may consider counter-intuitive
- Jesus tells us to love our enemies
- God calls us to follow His instruction rather than lean on our own experience and instinct



Question

- What do you think about the verse:
“Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for the sake of God will find it.”?

(Matthew 16:25)



Thoughts

- This not only goes against our experiences and instincts, but it logically doesn't make sense
- These things are only possible when God is involved



Ephesians 4:17-24

- What things in this passage are ‘counter-intuitive’ or ‘counter-cultural’?
- Paul is addressing the importance of putting aside our former ways of living and embracing God’s ways for our lives



Ephesians 4:17-24

- Paul uses two words that are important to pick up on
- The Roman empire was known for
 - Obsession with self-gratification (food, entertainment, money, or sex)
- The ideas of greed and sensuality were celebrated



Fall of Roman Empire

- Consumed by greed, the upper class chased wealth until they became the ruling class
- It was the revolt of the enslaved classes that were destroyed causing the Empire to crumble



Questions

- Can you think of another example of this in history?
- Why is keeping greed out of the church so important?



Greed and Self-Gratification

- Destroys people, families, and even empires
- Think about how greed is encouraged in your life right now
 - Advertisements
 - “Take what you deserve” mindset
- Paul says, ‘Not so fast, my friend.’



Luke 12:15-31

- Covetousness is another word for greed. In this passage, Jesus uses a parable to warn the people against covetousness
- What happens in this parable?



Luke 12:15-31

- He already had enough to live comfortably, but showed no intention of sharing with others
- God even asks him, “Who will get all this when you die tonight?”



Matthew 5:43-48

- Jesus is challenging a common practice in the culture at that time
- Human experience tells us to prepare and look out for ourselves
- God calls us to be generous and depend on Him



Sensuality

- Used to describe people who seek out physical pleasures
- Typically has a sexual tone
- The Greek word (aselgeia) implies more
 - Wantonness
 - Outrageous conduct



Sensuality

- That English word doesn't do justice as a translation of aselgeia
- Paul warns us against “rejecting restraint and indulging in rude, disgusting, and insolent behaviors”



Back to the Roman Empire

- Culture was to follow your passions
- Do things nobody had ever done before
- Entertainment was the center of their worship – gruesome and highly inappropriate



2 Peter 2:1-3

- Paul is not the only one who warned against letting our feelings and experiences be our guides
- Peter warns us against thinking and acting on our experiences rather than the Word of God
- The importance of knowing God's Word so we can test what we hear to remain anchored against the ways of the world



Anchor Statement

Human experience is limited, unlike the divine and eternal perspective of God. God's Word is wiser than anything worldly wisdom can teach me.



God's Word

- Something that none of us can fathom
- Keep in mind that God has a vantage point much greater than our own
- Anchor ourselves in His Word



THE LAST WORD



Goal

- To make personal commitments to follow Scripture over our own experiences



Think

- Think of a time when you felt your personal feelings or societal trends were leading you away from God's Word



Your Rock

- Write a word or short phrase on your rock that represents your commitment to trust Scripture when faced with cultural or personal contradictions and pressures



