



Daily Verse and Comment

[Job 9:32-35](#)

(32) For *He is* not a man, as I *am*, *that* I should answer Him, *that* we should come together in court; (33) There is no umpire between us, *who* might lay his hand upon us both. (34) Let Him take His rod away from me, and let not His fear make me afraid; (35) *Then* would I speak and not fear Him; but *it is* not so with me."

A Faithful Version

As early as [Job 9:32-35](#), Job complains that what he is enduring is completely and totally unfair and that [God](#) is wrong in permitting it to occur. The *Revised English Bible* clearly exposes at least an irritation against God, showing that Job, despite admitting that God is far greater, feels a measure of equality with Him!

God is not as I am, not someone I can challenge, and say, "Let us confront one another in court." If only there were one to arbitrate between us and impose his authority on us both, so that God might take his rod from my back, and terror of him might not come on me suddenly. I should then speak out without fear of him, for I know I am not what I am thought to be.

Despite being aware that a vast difference exists between God and man, Job is nonetheless unaware of how immeasurably different the reality is, shown in his willingness to stand with God before an umpire who would hear both sides of the case! He wants to be heard, not realizing he has no case to argue at all! He truly deserves nothing but death. At this point, Job is not yet overly concerned about God's right to do with him as He sees fit, but rather he is disturbed that God has not intervened and vindicated him before his accusing friends.

Job's complaint also reveals that he thought of [sin](#) merely in terms of an unrighteous act. He does not yet grasp that sin is more than a transgression of a code; it is a breaking of our covenant relationship with God that distorts life itself. Sin is the distortion, and whether it is an act visible on the outside or one of heart and motivation, the relationship with God is damaged because all sin is against Him. [Jeremiah 17:9](#) reads, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

To speak or act of sin as though it is of no account to God, as though He is indifferent to it, to disclaim responsibility, strikes at the very core of our relationship with Him. This is what Job was doing in claiming that God did not care about him. The reality is that God was putting Job through this rigorous trial because He did care and did not want to lose the relationship with him.

Job's trial thus becomes a witness to us of the vast difference between God and us. Besides God's being eternal spirit and our being flesh, the greatest difference between Him and us is in our hearts. [Jesus](#) points out in [Matthew 15:18-20](#) that sin begins in the heart. It is man's heart that needs changing. For one thing, its pride needs to be wrung from it.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Job, Self-Righteousness, and Humility](#)

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