

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

MY RIGHTEOUSNESS I HOLD FAST

JOB 27

Text: Job 27:6

Job 27:6

⁶ My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

Introduction:

One great servants of the Lord who had great integrity and a resolve to do what was right was Adam Clarke. Adam Clarke was an assistant in a dry-goods store, selling silks and satins to a cultured clientele.

One day his employer suggested to him that he try stretching the silk as he measured it out.

This would increase sales and profits and also increase Adam's value to the company.

Clark looked at his boss and courageously said, "Sir your silk may stretch, but my conscience won't!"

God honored Adam Clarke for being a man who had a resolve to do what was right by taking him from the dry-goods store and enabling him to write a tremendous commentary on all the books of the Bible.

He was a great servant of the Lord whose work continues to bless Christians today over 200 years later.

When we look through the Bible, we find a number of great men who did great things for God and impacted the world because they had a resolve to do what was right.

- Daniel and Joseph Resolved to Be Pure

Daniel 1:8

⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Genesis 39:10-12

¹⁰ And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. ¹¹ And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. ¹² And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

- Daniel Resolved to Pray when Forbidden and Those Who Disobeyed was Threatened with Death.

Daniel 6:10

¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Resolved to Be Consistent and Persistent in Opposing Idolatry and Standing for the Lord

Daniel 3:16-18

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. ¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

- Esther Resolved to Plead For Her People In Spite of the Danger She Faced

Esther 4:16

¹⁶ Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

- Joshua Resolved to Be Consistent In Serving the Lord

Joshua 24:15

¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

- The Disciples Resolved to Preach About Christ in the Face of Opposition

Acts 5:40-41

⁴⁰ And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

As you can see, great men and women were used of God because they had a resolve to do what was right.

Their lives are a challenge and an example to all of us.

In Job chapter 27, we find that Job had the same resolve, too.

In this chapter, Job expresses his resolve to do what was right in several areas.

Notice:

Sermon Content:

1. A RESOLVE TO COMMUNICATE WITHOUT WICKEDNESS AND INJUSTICE (vs. 1-4)

Job 27:1-4

¹ Moreover Job continued his parable, and said, ² As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul; ³ All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils; ⁴ My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.

Job continues to defend his integrity.

He speaks an oath or vow in the name of the living God:

“As God liveth.”

Speaking an oath was a very serious matter in the Middle East.

It was like an invitation for the Lord to take your life if you were not telling the truth.

Job felt that he had not been treated fairly or justly. Job wanted to know what he had done wrong, but the response from Heaven was silent.

- He Suffered From Disease
- His Sons and Daughters Were Dead
- His Wife Deserted or Turned on Him
- His Source of Income was Destroyed or Stolen

As bad as things got for Job, he did not turn his back on the Lord.

As long as Job had breath from the Lord he resolved to not speak wickedness. (vs. 4)

Job 27:4

⁴ My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.

The word wickedness means wicked, perverseness, or injustice.

Job would not speak wickedness or injustice by admitting guilt to something he had not done.

He was accused by his friends of being wicked, but Job refused to confess to something he did not do.

The principle that he shared here is a good one for all Christians.

We all should resolve to communicate or speak without perversity or filth in our words.

Thought:

It is sad that some Christians have a mouth that smells like a sewer because of all the filth that pours forth from their lips.

Filthy stories, dirty jokes, gossip, back-stabbing, and curse words should not be gracing our lips.

James 3:10

¹⁰ *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

1 Peter 3:9

⁹ *Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*

Psalms 34:13

¹³ *Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.*

Psalms 39:1

¹ *I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.*

Psalm 141:3

³ *Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.*

Proverbs 21:23

²³ *Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*

Note not only the Resolve to Communicate Without Wickedness but also

2. THE RESOLVE TO CONVERSE THE TRUTH AND NOT DECEPTION

Job 27:4

⁴ *My lips shall not speak wickedness, **nor my tongue utter deceit.***

Job also resolved that his tongue would not utter lies or deceit.

The truth would come forth from his lips.

This should be our resolve, too. We are to be truthful, honest people.

When we are deceitful or dishonest, we damage our credibility and our witness for Christ and we hurt others.

Quote:

We who represent the Way, the Truth, and the Life, should be people of truth that show people the way to have eternal life.

Colossians 3:9

⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Leviticus 19:11

¹¹ Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

Psalms 15:1-3

¹ LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? ² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. ³ He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

Proverbs 3:3

³ Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Psalms 51:6

⁶ Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Psalm 119:29

²⁹ Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.

Proverbs 8:7

⁷ For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

Ephesians 4:15

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:25

²⁵ Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Quote:

Abe Lincoln said, "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true.

I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have.

I must stand with anybody that stands right, stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."

Illustration:

There was an emperor in the Far East who was growing old and knew it was coming time to choose his successor.

Instead of choosing one of his assistants or one of his own children, he decided to do something different.

He called all the young people in the kingdom together one day.

He said, "It has come time for me to step down and to choose the next emperor.

I have decided to choose one of you."

The kids were shocked, but the emperor continued by saying, "I am going to give each one of you a seed today.

You will have one seed and it is a very special seed.

I want you to go home, plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed.

I will then judge the plants that you bring to me, and the one I choose will be the next emperor of the kingdom!"

There was one boy named Ling who was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed.

He went home and excitedly told his mother the whole story.

She helped him get a pot and some planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully.

Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown.

After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Ling kept going home and checking his seed, but nothing ever grew.

Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by and still nothing happened.

By now, all the others were talking about their plants, but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like an absolute failure.

Six months went by, but there was still nothing in Ling's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed.

Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing.

Ling didn't say anything to his friends, however. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection.

Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot, but she encouraged him to go, to take his pot, and to be honest and truthful about what happened.

Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace.

When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by all the other youths.

They were beautiful, in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other kids laughed at him.

A few felt sorry for him and just said, "Hey, nice try."

When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people.

Ling just tried to hide in the back.

"My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the emperor."

Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the Emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot.

He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified.

"The Emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed," he thought.

When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked his name.

"My name is Ling," he replied.

All the kids were laughing and making fun of him.

The Emperor asked everyone to quiet down.

He looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd,
"Behold your new emperor!"

His name is Ling!"

Ling couldn't believe it.

Ling couldn't even grow his seed.

How could he be the new emperor?

Then the Emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed.

I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today.

But I gave you all boiled seeds which would not grow.

All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees, plants, and flowers.

When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you.

Ling was the only one with the courage, truthfulness, and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it.

Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"

Understand:

Truthfulness leads to blessing.

Psalm 15:1-2

¹ LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? ² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Job not only had a resolve to communicate without wickedness, he not only had a resolve to converse the truth and not deception, but thirdly:

3. A RESOLVE TO CONTINUE HIS INTEGRITY

Job 27:5-6

*⁵ God forbid that I should justify you: till I die **I will not remove mine integrity from me.** ⁶ My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.*

These verses provide an important principle for us to live by.

We should resolve to hold fast to our integrity and righteousness.

In other words, we should be godly people.

We should be people of integrity and never surrender these traits.

We are repeatedly urged as Christians to be people of integrity and righteousness.

We are to be holy.

1 Peter 1:15

¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

2 Peter 3:11

¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

1 Timothy 4:12

¹² Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Note:

- Integrity makes an individual upright even when others are wrong.
- Integrity makes a man honest when others want him to be deceitful.

- Integrity compels a man to tell the truth, to be trustworthy and faithful even though others may lie, be undependable or unpredictable.
- A man or woman who has integrity has grit, guts, and steel for a backbone. People of integrity are not afraid to stand up for what is right, even when right may cause sorrow or sacrifice in their lives. They are people of conviction.
- The person with integrity fulfills obligations whether they are required of him or not or when no one is around watching him. No matter how much time has elapsed, the person with integrity fulfills his word or promises

Close:

The song writer penned these words:

am resolved
No longer to linger
Torn by the world's delight
Things that are higher
Things that are nobler
These have allured my side

I am resolved
To go to the savior
Leaving my sin and strive
He is the true one
He is the just one
He has the words of life

I am resolved
To follow my savior
Faithful and true each day
Hear what he sayeth
Do what he willeth
He is the living way
Repeat Chorus
I will come to thee.

I will hasten to him
Hasten so glad and free
Jesus greatest highest
I will come to thee

Have resolved like Job to hold fast to our righteousness
and to Stand fast in the Lord?