

2026-02-25 Points

Title: Speaking Truth in Love: Learning from Elihu's Bold Humility

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the introduction of Elihu in the Book of Job, a young man who respectfully but boldly confronts both Job and his three friends. The pastor emphasizes the delicate balance between remaining silent and speaking up when God prompts us to address sin or error in others' lives. Through Elihu's example, we learn that confrontation should never come from emotion or pride, but from a genuine desire to restore people to right relationship with God. The message challenges believers to flee from self-righteousness, recognize that God doesn't owe us anything despite our good works, and understand that sometimes loving others means speaking difficult truths. The sermon stresses that all confrontation must be rooted in Scripture, motivated by the Holy Spirit, delivered with humility and respect, and aimed at reconciliation rather than condemnation.

Key Points:

- Elihu waited respectfully before speaking, honoring those older than him, but eventually felt compelled by God's Spirit to address Job's self-righteousness
- Job's fundamental error was justifying himself rather than God, claiming he deserved better treatment because of his good works
- God speaks to us in many ways—dreams, visions, warnings, Scripture, and through other believers—but we often fail to perceive His voice
- There is a proper time and manner for confrontation: it should be done without partiality, without flattery, and without emotional anger
- We must distinguish between our flesh wanting to correct others and God's Spirit genuinely prompting us to speak truth
- The purpose of godly confrontation is always restoration and repentance, not condemnation or personal vindication
- God does not show partiality to the rich or powerful; all people are equally His creation and equally accountable to Him
- Repentance requires more than just saying "I'm sorry"—it requires genuine turning away from sin and following God's ways

- We need each other in the church to address our "blind sides" and help save one another from spiritual pitfalls
- Speaking truth can save both the speaker and the hearer from sin and its consequences

Scripture Reference:

- Job 31:40 - 34:37 (primary focus)
- Matthew 18 (referenced regarding confrontation and reconciliation)
- 1 Timothy 4:11-16 (watching life and doctrine closely)
- 2 Timothy 2:22-26 (fleeing evil desires, gently instructing those in opposition)
- Romans 8 (referenced regarding the Spirit interceding)
- Ephesians 4 (referenced regarding being angry without sinning)
- James (referenced regarding saving someone from sin)

Stories:

- The pastor's personal observation about people claiming to follow God while actually doing what they want
- Illustration of trying to warn someone about a flat tire on the highway and being ignored
- Acts 8 story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, demonstrating obedience to God's illogical promptings
- Julie's wisdom about couples who fight, tell friends, but forget to tell those friends when they've reconciled
- General references to experiencing sickness in the congregation and praying for healing
- The ongoing technical difficulties with streaming as a reminder that God is not a God of confusion