

2026-04-01 Points

Title: Contending With God: The Humbling of Job and the Greatness of Christ

Sermon Summary:

This sermon explores Job chapter 40, where God directly confronts Job after his complaints about suffering and divine justice. The pastor draws parallels between Job's humbling before God's majesty and our own tendency to contend with God rather than surrender to Him. The message emphasizes that true faith means trusting God's sovereignty without demanding explanations, especially during suffering. The sermon also reflects on the Passover timeline and Christ's passion, suggesting Wednesday as a possible day for the Last Supper to align with the "three days and three nights" prophecy. The central challenge is to stop contending against God and instead contend for God, recognizing our complete dependence on Him and the futility of our pride. Paul's teachings in Colossians are highlighted to show that suffering with Christ is a privilege, and that our completeness is found only in Him, not in our own abilities or understanding.

Key Points:

- We often contend with God by questioning His justice and fairness, just as Job did
- God's question to Job—"Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him?"—reveals the absurdity of our challenging God
- Job's immediate humbling when confronted with God's presence shows the proper response to divine majesty
- We cannot "adorn ourselves with splendor" or claim any glory apart from God
- Paul understood that suffering is part of following Christ and considered it a privilege to fill up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions
- The American church often focuses on salvation as a ticket to heaven rather than complete transformation and ongoing discipleship
- We are called to be "perfect" (complete) in Christ, not through our own efforts but through total surrender
- The body of Christ functions best when believers admonish and teach one

another, not living solo Christian lives

- God's patience with us is beyond comprehension—He knows all our failures yet continues to love us
- True faith means trusting God's plan even when we don't understand, especially during suffering

Scripture Reference:

- Job 40:1-9 (primary focus)
- Colossians 1:24-29
- Colossians 2:1-6
- Genesis 6 (God's spirit not contending with man forever)
- John 17 (Jesus praying for unity)
- Hebrews (don't neglect such a great salvation)
- James (demons believe in God)

Stories:

- The MMA fighter who showboats and does elaborate moves before the fight, only to be knocked out with one punch—illustrating the futility of contending with God
- The pastor's personal struggle with the Easter/Passover timeline and his belief that Wednesday makes more sense for the Last Supper based on "three days and three nights"
- The account of Larry, an 81-year-old man who survived being pronounced dead at birth (blue baby with umbilical cord around neck), survived polio as a child, and survived multiple near-death experiences throughout his life before finally passing on April 1st—demonstrating God's sovereignty over life and death
- References to current college campus revivals where students are being baptized and simply saying "Thank you, Lord" rather than expecting prosperity
- The Garden of Gethsemane scene where Jesus sweated drops of blood and Peter later denied Him
- Peter's restoration after Jesus told him Satan asked to sift him like wheat