

Christ for the Crisis:
Mighty God
Isaiah 9:6; Job 42:1-6

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Text Introduction: We return to the book of Isaiah this morning. With the exception of a few Sundays here and there for special emphases, we have been in the book of Isaiah in this latter part of the year. We are considering this book from the general theme of “Crisis,” because it is a prophetic message from a time of crisis in Isaiah’s day, focused on the nation of Israel and more precisely, Judah. To this point, we have examined the *Confrontation that Comes from Crisis*, the *Comfort for our Crisis*, and the *Challenges in the Crisis*.

We are concluding this month our study of Isaiah by using Isaiah 9:6 as a focal point. Another preacher (James Merritt) called this verse the “centerpiece of all prophecy.” I am amazed and confirmed in my faith by the fact that Isaiah could point to the advent of Christ 800 years before His birth.

Christmas is the reminder that God is our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, our Eternal Father, and our Prince of Peace. Today, we examine specifically God as our Mighty God.

Now, there are numerous examples in the Bible, throughout history, and in our personal testimonies that He is Mighty God, but I want to show you one today as illustrated in the life of Job.

Text: Then Job replied to the LORD:

²I know that you can do anything

and no plan of yours can be thwarted.

³You asked, “Who is this who conceals my counsel with ignorance?”

Surely I spoke about things I did not understand,
things too wondrous for me to know.

⁴You said, “Listen now, and I will speak.

When I question you, you will inform me.”

⁵I had heard reports about you,
but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶Therefore, I reject my words and am sorry for them;
I am dust and ashes.

Introduction: The prophet Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace—a God for all occasions. Sometimes we need a counselor; sometimes we need a mighty God—a God who is more mighty than our greatest struggle, more mighty than our greatest fear. We need a God who will fight for us. I believe we meet God in this way in the demanding trials of life. I believe that we meet God in this way when everybody is trying to say something about God, but no one is really communicating the voice of God.

Such is the case for Job. You know something of Job’s story. It is in Job’s story that we have an illustration of an encounter with the Mighty God.

Encounters with the Mighty God

Job's Encounter:

We probably all know something about Job's story, but here is a quick summary.

- Job's Faith—The first verse of the book tells us of Job's faith—he was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. God said about him, as recorded in verse 8, that “There {is} was none like him on the earth.” He had 7 sons and 3 daughters, and a vast estate. (1:2-3)
- Job's Misfortune—God allows Satan to take all of his family and estate from him. When this does not thwart Job's faith, Satan takes away even Job's health.
- Job's Friends—Then Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and finally Elihu come by to “counsel” him. They might have meant well enough but from chapters 3-37, they take turns talking—arguing, trying to speak for God, trying to philosophize about God.
- Job's Faith—Though these so called friends, Job's faith might have been shaken, but his faith was never destroyed. Chapters 38-42 contain the dialogue between God and Job, with God doing most of the talking. We probably ought to learn something right there. Only when we are silent and let God speak, do we really encounter the Mighty God. Actually what we can say is that...

Job's faith grows deeper even through adversity.

Our Encounters:

Job's story helps us to see several things about our encounters with the Mighty God. Our encounters with the Mighty God....

- Usually come as the result of Difficult circumstances.
- Usually come when we are Desperate.

Job came to a place when the words of his friends were insufficient. Job came to a place where his own words were insufficient. When we run out of things to say and do, we get desperate. To quote Job 38:1, “Then the LORD answered....”

- Ought to leave us Different.

Job was different in that he became silent. Job 40:3-5 reveals Job's silence. Job was different in that he had a brand new understanding of God. Job 42:1-6 reveals this understanding.

Conclusions Concerning Our Mighty God

Job's story as well as our story helps us to draw some conclusions about God working as our Mighty God.

1. I need God to be mighty in my life.

Last week, we talked about Jesus coming to be our Wonderful Counselor. Certainly, there are times when we need a counselor. However, there are other times when we need God to be "mighty."

2. God desires to be mighty in my life.

His desire is consistent with my need. 2 Corinthians 12:9 comes to mind. "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

The prophet Zephaniah proclaimed, "The Lord Your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in his love. He will delight in you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

3. God cannot be mighty in my life unless I allow Him to work in my life.
4. The first step in God working mightily in my life is to recognize who I am.
5. The second step in God working mightily in my life is to recognize who God is.

Christmas is the reminder that there is nothing too difficult for God. Those were the words of the angel to Mary in announcing that she would have a son even though a virgin. Mary's response was natural, "How can this be?" The angel's response was supernatural, "For nothing will be impossible for God."

And, we must believe and trust the might of the Mighty God. In the words of Adrian Rogers, a preacher now with the Lord:

There is no promise too hard for God to keep.
There is no prayer too hard for God to answer.
There is no problem too hard for God to solve.
There is no person too hard for God to save.

The Cross Is the Greatest Example of our Mighty God

In the cross, we see the greatest example of our Mighty God. Understanding Jesus as our Mighty God is all about recognizing that He is able to do what we cannot do for ourselves. The greatest need of our life is to be reconciled to God. The greatest incapability that we have in our own merit is to be reconciled to God. Christmas is the beginning of the story of God doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

At Christmas time, I like to quote something that I first saw on a Christmas card some years ago. It goes like this:

If our greatest need would have been information, God would have sent us an educator.
If our greatest need would have been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need would have been money, God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need would have been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.
But since our greatest need is forgiveness, God sent us a Savior.

So What?

Let Christmas renew your faith that God is the mighty God—that nothing is impossible with God.

Let Christmas call you to trust less in yourself and more in God.