

Motivated to Meet Needs
Job 31:13-23

One of the most intriguing books of the Bible is the book of Job. It addresses the ageless question, why do the righteous _____? Much of the book involves Job listening to and _____ against the accusations of his 3 so-called friends, who insist that Job's suffering proves he has committed some secret, terrible sin. A major part of his claim to innocence is that, though he has been a man of wealth and power, he has been faithful to _____ and be an _____ for those less fortunate and in need.

Job defends himself against any claim that he has failed to be _____ with his wealth and power. Job understood—and we must recognize—that God is passionately committed to the poor and powerless and has instructed _____ to dismantle the inequities that marginalize them.

Job claimed he was motivated to act with ethical and moral responsibility because, regardless of socioeconomic standing, every person is a _____ of God and equally _____ by Him. God loves the world, but there is a special place in His heart for those whom the world tends to _____—widows, orphans, needy, children, the unborn. We are called to _____ our God.

But Job also claims to have been ethically and socially responsible because he knew that if we fail to do so, we invite God's _____. He knew what Paul would later record in 2 Cor. 5:10—“*We must all appear before the _____ of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*” There is never a time or text in Scripture that excuses God's people from being socially active in _____ the needs and _____ the earthly lives of those in need. Job was a champion for these things.

Job argues for his innocence, not to say he is worthy of _____, but to say that sin didn't _____ his earthly suffering. We are called to moral and ethical responsibility, but eternal salvation is only found as a gift of God's _____ through _____ in Jesus Christ.