

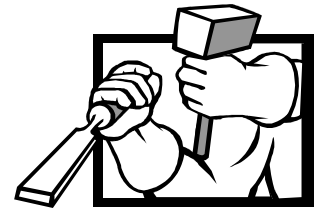
A Severe Mercy

Studies in Job



I Can't Hear You!

Introduction to Job 40:6-42:17



**God loves us as we are,
 but loves us too much to
 leave us that way.**

**The 5 Purposes of the
 Purpose Driven
 Life**

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Nearly everyone has seen the sergeant yelling at his young recruit, "I can't hear you!" The point is being made that the soldier doesn't really have a defensible answer, and is privileged just to be in the same outfit with the drill instructor. In many ways this is the stage of God and Job's relationship in Job 40:6. God has informed Job of His majesty as seen in creation, and now He wants to know what Job's answer is. But Job has no defensible answer; he only shuts his mouth and waits for God to act. In this week's study God continues His discourse with Job by first asking some penetrating questions. He asks if Job will really instruct Him, if he will really annul His judgment, if he will condemn God that he might be justified, and if he

is able to do what God does, such as cause the thunder. Of course Job has no answer because the thought of these things now seems ludicrous. However, God goes on to urge Job to consider his inability, and God's ability as seen in His powerful creations. The two animals that God depicts may now be instinct, but Job was obviously aware of them. The first mentioned is Behemoth, a hippopotamus-like animal far too strong and far too large for man to direct or to be able to control. God then described Leviathan, the sea monster somewhat akin to the crocodile, but much larger and more intimidating. This animal could not be captured by mankind, had flames that shot out of its mouth, and ruled the seas with no equal. Since God

created these two beasts, how could man measure up to Him? In light of these revelations Job was finally able to see God for who He is, and himself for who he was; this led him to the last step before restoration, which was repentance. Once this occurred God completely restored him—family, friends, possessions and health. Until Job finally repented of his attitude all God could say is, "I can't hear you!"

Daily Study Questions for Job 40:6-42:17

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader_resources))

1. Read Job 40:6-9. What were God's questions to Job (v8, 9) and what did they mean? What was the "tone" of God's questions (v6-7) and why?	
2. According to Job 40:10-14 what did God challenge Job to do (v10, 11, 12-13)? What would Job's inability reveal to him (v14)? Apply.	
3. From 40:15-24 describe the power of Behemoth (v16, 17, 18, 23, 24). What does this reveal about God, His Creator, and about man?	

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Job 40:6-42:17 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 41:1-11 what are some pictures of the sea beast's strength (v1-2, 3-6, 7, 8-9)? What is God's point (v10-11)?

5. In 41:12-34 how else does God describe this beast (v12-17, 18-21, 22-30, 31-32). How does every other creature compare to him (v33-34)?

6. Read 42:1-3. What understanding of God had Job come to (v1-2), and of himself (v3)? What does this say about how God uses problems in our lives?

7. Looking at 42:4-6 what did Job invite God to do (v4), and what did he admit (v5)? What did this lead to (v6)? Why do you think it did?

8. From 42:7-9 where did God's attention shift (v7) and why (v7)? What did he command (v8) and why? What was the result (v9)?

9. Scan 42:10-17. How did God restore Job in each specific area (v10, 11, 12, 13, 14-16)? What was the end of Job's life (v17)?

10. Compare Job 40:3-5 with 42:1-6. Why did God deal with Job further in 40:6-41:34—what ultimate response is God looking for from us (42:5-6)? How can we apply this?

11. Read James 5:11. Drawing from your study of Job, give examples of how this verse is true. How can this help you in your life?

Scripture to Remember

"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes."

Job 42:5-6 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

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Life Group Questions—Risk—Choosing Your Foundation

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Talk about your favorite board game as a kid and why. If your life today were a game, which one would it be?
2. Why do you think convenience (if it's easy) and pragmatism (if it works) have caused the decay of truth in America? How does that affect your life personally?
3. Define individualism, secularism, and relativism and discuss how they have impacted our world today. In what ways do you get drawn into these mindsets?
4. Which of the two wrong standards are you most susceptible to ("I am my own standard", "Do what others are doing")? Why?
5. Look at Matt 7:24-29. What is the wise builder's approach, and why is it the only standard that will work? Each of you talk about how you can apply that this week.
6. Bring up anything else important to you from the message today if you have time.