

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Karl A. McKinney

AN EXERCISE IN SELF-EXAMINATION

Learn about “True Mirror” at <https://www.truemirror.com/>. “It’s not about what you look like, it’s about who you are and what are you saying. It’s really you looking back.” If you have an Android phone or tablet, go to the Google Play store and download the official app for True Mirror®. Then, each person can look into the mirror and see—perhaps for the first time—what they really look like.

WORSHIP SONG

A beautiful worship song that relates to Job’s relationship with God in his suffering is “Lord of Eternity” by Fernando Ortega, <https://youtu.be/u-ZAQwXZ7YQ>.

MORE THOUGHTS ABOUT CHAPTER 31

Read Dr. Bailey’s *An appeal for the same standard* (*S&L*, p. 71). Job’s sense of proper ethical conduct is clear in chapter 31, which is part of the background readings for this study. He argues that he has shown compassion for the poor. He has shared everything he has had. He has not mistreated the orphan or widow. He has not put his trust in money. He implies throughout that he is innocent of wrongdoing. He also implies that God should be held to the same ethical standard that God demands of mortals.

If God were held to the same standard, Job would not be suffering because he has not done anything wrong.

Job was in pain and disbelief. He felt that God was being so cruel to him. He demanded that *God treat him the way he had treated others*. This reveals Job’s mindset, that he had been keeping his part of the “deal” with God and that God was being unfair to him in having brought these calamities upon him.

It is terrifying how blind we can be to the sins we commit, as we strongly defend ourselves as being innocent of sins we know we have not committed. But Job’s relationships were to him a matter of what he did *for* the widow, the orphan, the poor, the victims.

His attacks upon those who assumed the prominence he’d formerly enjoyed betray how he loathed others by a pride in himself. He had nurtured that pride in secret—like Gollum Smeagol in *Lord of the Rings*.

In these chapters, Job searched in himself and through his experiences, for an explanation for his incomprehensible sufferings. Job assessed the value of the faith in God he had received. He assessed the usefulness of the faith to him, since it had not buffered him against suffering, and since it had not kept him vaulted above the people he despised, those he looked down upon. Finding no explanation, Job drew silent.