

Family TableTalk

Conversation 43

Remembering the Providence of God

read

Job 38:4-13

think

Every day my Facebook feed has entertaining memes like “The murder hornets are coming. How much toilet paper do I need?” Many like this one are only funny because they point to our foolish, sinful tendencies, and we need to be able to laugh at ourselves. Our nature is to fall for the temptation that caused our first parents to sin.

We want control, and we are pretty sure we have it all figured out better than the God who knows and sees all.

We listen to our chosen news sources, and we form our opinions, which become absolute truths in our brains. Then we try to convince those around us that they should see the world as we do. We are right to try to educate ourselves, to make the best decisions we can for our families and ourselves. However, we also need to remember that our understanding will always be finite and frail in comparison to the infinite wisdom of God to carry out his plans and purposes.

If the verses we just read from Job 38 weren't enough to convince you of God's greatness and our frailty, keep reading. There are several more verses (120 more to be exact) in the book of Job, expounding our weakness and God's strength, our folly and His wisdom. “Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will he spend the night at your manger?” (39:9) “Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads his wings toward the south?” (39:26) “Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his?” (40:9) When we are tempted to grandstand, or worry, or despair, or hoard all the toilet paper, we need to remember who we serve. We need to remember that our God uses all things to work for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28), and we need to rest in his loving care.

apply

- What things do you feel you need to control to feel safe and/or happy?
- Can you think of a hard experience in your life that God used for your good and his glory?
- What fears do you have about this pandemic that you need to bring to the Lord, trusting that in his providence, none of this surprises him?

pray

Lord, thank you that you are in control and that I don't have to worry. The book of Job is a wonderful display of your faithfulness toward your children in the midst of suffering, a reminder that the one who “laid the foundation of the earth” is present and sovereign. When things seem to be spiraling out of control, help me to remember that you are on your throne, that everything is going according to your plan, and that you love me.

by Lynn Rohal

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