

May: 12

Job's Friend Eliphaz

Scripture Reading: Job Chapter 4

Eliphaz praises Job saying, “Surely you have instructed many, and you have strengthened weak hands. Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have strengthened the feeble knees”. But along with his praise, he also struck Job with his criticism saying that this wouldn't have come upon him if he was firm in the fear of the Lord and walked uprightly. He said that those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same. He also said, “Behold, happy *is* the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He bruises, but He blinds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole”. In this manner Eliphaz spoke to Job and shared his opinions. At the start of the conversation he said that Job is suffering because of his sin, but at the end he said that God is chastening him.



Dear children, are you thinking if what Eliphaz said is the truth or not? Though the content of Eliphaz's conversation had truth, it was not applicable for Job. The truth is that Satan brought all of this on Job in order to separate him from God. In such situating Job lays a request before God. He says, “That it would please God to crush me, that He would lose His hand and cut me off!” Job wanted to die. Job never spoke against God or his friends. He says, “Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; cause me to understand wherein I have erred”. Dear children, we should speak words of comfort and comfort those who are in distress. We should never hurt those who are in distress. We have to pray for them. If it is observed and proved that sin is the cause for their suffering, we have to longingly make them understand and lead them towards God in forgiveness.

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him” Hebrews 12:5

Prayer

Most Holy Heavenly Father, let the words that proceed out of our mouth be filled with love and grace. Give us the grace to speak words of life. Amen

