

THE CYNIC
Job 1:6-12

"Doth Job fear God for nought?" This question was asked by Satan, the Cynic. The safest way to slander is by a question. If one makes a false assertion about another, he may get into trouble, but by asking the right kind of question he may be equally damaging to his victim and at the same time play safe. Satan being a cynic does not believe in goodness, either his own or that of another. By this question he is telling God how blind He is in thinking that Job is good. Satan himself is not so easily taken in.

We pray Thee, Lord, to increase
out faith both in Thee and in our
fellows.

Where is he? job 20:7

VICTORIOUS SUFFERING

Job 1:13-22

"The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed by the name of the Lord." This is not the shout of a Freshman in the school of faith. It may be easy enough to praise God when "the sea of life is smooth and every moment jeweled with a joy." But it is quite different when the tempest is bursting upon us and is sweeping away all that we hold most dear. What a mighty faith it took for this man, standing amidst the ruins of so much that he held priceless to shout; "Blessed by the name of the Lord."

Grant us, Lord, so to know
Thee that we shall trust Thee,
not only in the sunshine but also
in the shadows.

Amen.

AN UGLY LIE
Job 2:10-10

"All that a man hath ^{will} ~~would~~ he give for his life." Too often this is quoted as authentic scripture. In reality this is one of Satan's ugliest lies. It is true that all that some men have will they give ^{for} their lives. During the stress of this war every nation has had its quislings. But always there are others who possess values that they hold far dearer than life. In fact the man who has no values that are worth more than his own life is poor indeed. It is not such poverty-pinched souls that help to enrich the world. All the progress that has come to our world has come at the hands of those who possess something more priceless than life.

We thank Thee, Lord, for those who possess treasures for which they would gladly die.

Amen.

2
Oct 36
Prefer pain - to
suffering - fact
stand - against

FRUITFUL FEAR
Job 3:20-26

3
"For the thing which I greatly
feared has come upon me." Was there a con-
nection between Job's fear and his disaster?
It would seem so. But whether this was true
in his case or not, it is often true in ours.
Sometime ago we had a guest in our home who
"enjoyed" bad health. Her chief indoor sport
was to eat something that she was afraid would
disagree with her, then spend the remainder
of that day fearing that it had disagreed.
What she feared almost always came upon her.
To put our fingers fearfully upon our pulse
either physically or spiritually is a sure
road to trouble.

We pray Thee, Lord, to save us
from our foolish and crippling
fears.

Amen.

BRACING WORDS
Job 4:1-11

"Thy words have upholden him that was falling." "Your words have kept men on their feet," is Moffatt's translation. There are words that strengthen and words that weaken. We have all spoken such words. We have all had both kinds spoken to us. When I remember the new strength and courage that have come to me through the bracing words of a friend, I wonder that I do not employ such words more lavishly. Some high services are beyond our ability, but of everyone who is willing, this might be said: "Your words have kept men on their feet."

*Ch. d... 9 with words
Job 38*

Grant us, O Lord, to speak words that strengthen and build up rather than those that weaken and tear down.

Amen.

ONE SOURCE OF TROUBLE
Job 5:1-11

"Yet man is born into trouble, as the sparks fly upward." I think Moffatt gives the author's real meaning by this translation: "Man brings trouble on himself as surely as the sparks fly upward." Generally speaking, this accounts for most of our trouble. By our own sins we bring it upon ourselves. But while this accounts for most of our trouble, it does not account for all of it. There are some who suffer not because they are so bad, but because they are so good. Jesus was such a man. "Yet the fact remains that most of bring our troubles upon ourselves.

Save us, Lord, from blaming Thee
for the ills that we bring upon
ourselves.

WHY BE PATIENT?
Job 6:1-13

"What is before me that I should be patient?" (Moffatt) This is a desperate question wrung from the tight lips of pain. Job is in agony now. He sees nothing but more agony in the days ahead. Why not crash and give over altogether? What is there ahead for him or for any other sufferer whose every breath seems destined to be a breath of pain? Well, God is ahead, ever and always. Also, He is ever present and ready to undergird with His everlasting arms, I am thinking of one now whose agony is constant and terrible. Yet hers is about the most radiant and patient face into which I have ever looked. She is patient because she believes in God.

When our blackest hours are
upon us, O Lord, grant us the
patience that is born of faith in
Thee.

Amen.

THE DUTY OF A FRIEND
Job 6:14-21

"Friends should be kind to a despairing man or he will give up faith in the Almighty."

(Moffatt) How often is this the case! How many too have been won to the faith by the kindness of another who was a believer!

"Thy God shall be my God," pledged Ruth in the long ago as she clung to Naomi. Why so?

She is simply saying, "If your God has the same gentleness and kindness that you have, only raised to the infinite, then He shall have my heart forever." When I realize how much the faith of others depends upon my kindness, I wonder that I am not more kind.

Jesus, Master, grant us the
love that suffers long and is
kind.

Amen.

THE GREAT SPY
Job 7:11-21

"If I sin, what harm is that to Thee
O thou spy upon manking?" (Moffatt) This
is a shocking question. Poor tortured Job
has come to look upon God not as a loving
Father but as a cruel spy. Almost all of
us have felt like that at one time or another.
But God never spies upon us. He is a loving
friend ever looking for the best as good friends
do. He rejoices over every upward look, every
slightest battle against evil. But he sees our
sin and suffers in it because He loves us and
because He knows the harm that sin will work,
both to ourselves and to our fellows.

Help us, Lord, always to be sure of
Thy love.

Amen.

STUPID PREACHING

Job 8:1-7

"Thy children have sinned...and he cast them away."

These friends of Job know all the answers. They are sure that good men always prosper while the wicked go to the wall. If any man suffers, therefore, there is one easy explanation-- that man has sinned. All Job's children have just been swept away by a storm. The reason is evident, they were paying the penalty of their sin. But such an explanation is just as false as it is cruel. Go out with the conviction that none ever suffer save the guilty and life will tear your complacent faith into shreds.

Save us, Lord, from the foolish faith that God always pays in dollars and cents for being good.

Amen.

A HALF TRUTH
Job 9:16-26

"He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked." Job is denying that only evil men suffer. He claims rather that God destroys blameless and bad men alike. This is only partly true. All men suffer whether good or bad. But the man who lives within the will of God, avoids much of the suffering that all evil men must bear. Then, too, the good man does not have to suffer alone. Therefore, while godliness does not exempt us from all pain, it is still "profitable unto all things, having the promise of life that now is, and of that which is to come."

Help us, Lord, to realize that Thy supreme gift is not an easy way but grave sufficient, whatever life may bring.

Amen.

A SANE QUESTION
Job 10:1-9

74 H
"Remember, I beseech Thee, that Thou hast made me as clay; and wilt Thou bring me unto dust again?" Such a procedure would seem unreasonable. No sane potter would give his best to the making of a vase only to wreck it. God has invested His best in the making of us. We are both the work of his hands and the children of his love. Would it not be less than sane for Him to redeem us, win us, walk with us to the sunset and then drop us into the grave? Personally, I am as sure of the after-life as I am of God.

We thank Thee, Lord, that this is life
eternal to know Thee.

Amen.

BLOWS FOR THE FALTERING
Job 12:1-10

"When a man falters, there are blows for him."

This is not universally true, thank God, but it is true too often. This is a hard world for failures. Not a few of us like to give our gifts where they are not really needed. Ours has been a day when to falter as a nation was to court disaster. In Hitler's Germany the supreme crime was to be weak. There is no attitude more devilish than this. To be Christian we must take the opposite course. "We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves."

Lord, give us the grace to bear one
another's burdens and fulfil Christ's
law.

To learn for suffering - Job 19:28

RELIGIOUS WICKEDNESS
Job 13:1-10

"Will you speak wickedly for God?" Well, it has been done. Two deeply earnest neighbors of mine spoke so harshly to each other in an argument over perfect love that they came to hate each other. It is not easy to engage in a controversy, about religion even, and refrain altogether from wicked speech. Two dangers threaten all such. First, some give way to harsh and unbrotherly language. Others, if they do not positively lie, often color the truth so highly that it amounts to a lie. No truth needs either harsh words or pious lies to enable it to stand.

Save us, Lord, from the folly of speaking
wickedly in an effort to serve Thee.

BLOWS FOR THE FALTERING
Job 12:1-10

"When a man falters, there are blows for him."

This is not universally true, thank God, but it is true too often. This is a hard world for failures. Not a few of us like to give our gifts where they are not really needed. Ours has been a day when to falter as a nation was to court disaster. In Hitler's Germany the supreme crime was to be weak. There is no attitude more devilish than this. To be Christian we must take the opposite course. "We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves."

Lord, give us the grace to bear one
another's burdens and fulfil Christ's
law.

RELIGIOUS WICKEDNESS
Job 13:1-10

"Will you speak wickedly for God?" Well, it has been done. Two deeply earnest neighbors of mine spoke so harshly to each other in an argument over perfect love that they came to hate each other. It is not easy to engage in a controversy, about religion even, and refrain altogether from wicked speech. Two dangers threaten all such. First, some give way to harsh and unbrotherly language. Others, if they do not positively lie, often color the truth so highly that it amounts to a lie. No truth needs either harsh words or pious lies to enable it to stand.

Save us, Lord, from the folly of speaking
wickedly in an effort to serve Thee.

A FAITH THAT STEADIES
Job 14:1-14

7 "If a man die shall he live again?" Moffatt gives a better translation: "If only man might die and live again, I could endure my weary post until relief arrived." Job was not sure of the life to come. Had he been sure, such a faith would have given him strength to bear his present pain. But why be brave when the issue was sure to be dust and ashes? As Christians we possess the faith for which Job longed. This assurance of triumph over death ought to give us courage to stand at our post however painful the ordeal may be.

We thank Thee, Lord, that we can go
about our task girded by the powers of
an endless life.

Amen.

A FAITH THAT STEADIES
Job 14:1-14

"If a man die shall he live again?" Moffatt gives a better translation: "If only man might die and live again, I could endure my weary past until relief arrived." Job was not sure of the life to come. Had he been sure, such a faith would have given him strength to bear his present pain. But why be brave when the issue was sure to be dust and ashes? As Christians we possess the faith for which Job longed. This assurance of triumph over death ought to give us courage to stand at our post however painful the ordeal may be.

We thank Thee, Lord, that we can go
about our task girded by the powers of
an endless life.

Amen.

WANTED: IMAGINATION
Job 16:1-14

9 ?
"If your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you." Job's wooden-minded friends had no imagination and therefore no sympathy. For this reason, they did not help but hurt. While in college, I went on Sunday with a sorely troubled friend to hear a brilliant minister preach. As we came away I asked my friend what he thought of the service. "The minister reminded me," he replied, "of one standing safely on the bank of a raging river watching some poor chap drown. But instead of throwing him a rope, he merely told him wisely that he was a fool ever to fall in."

Lord, grant us imagination and
heart enough to put ourselves in the
other man's place.

Amen.

"where they sat"

WANTED: IMAGINATION
Job 16:1-14

"If your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you." Job's wooden-minded friends had no imagination and therefore no sympathy. For this reason, they did not help but hurt. While in college, I went on Sunday with a sorely troubled friend to hear a brilliant minister preach. As we came away I asked my friend what he thought of the service. "The minister reminded me," he replied, "of one standing safely on the bank of a raging river watching some poor chap drown. But instead of throwing him a rope, he merely told him wisely that he was a fool ever to fall in."

Lord, grant us imagination and
heart enough to put ourselves in the
other man's place.

Amen.

TEARS THAT ARE PRAYERS

Job 16:15-21

10
"Mine eye poureth out tears unto God." "My tears turn to God in prayer," is Moffatt's translation. There are tears that are quite cheap. Some can turn them on as easily as turning on water in the bathroom. Some make them weapons of offense and of defense. Others still make them a substitute for action. We used to have a boat on one of our rivers whose engine was so weak that when it whistled it had to stop and get up steam. There are those whose tears are like that. Then there are others whose tears are so meaningful that they become liquid prayers.

We thank Thee, Father, that when we read in Thy Word, "I have seen thy tears," we can be sure that Thou art moved by our sorrow.

Amen.

TEARS THAT ARE PRAYERS

Job 16:15-21

"Mine eye poureth out tears unto God." "My tears turn to God in prayer," is Moffatt's translation. There are tears that are quite cheap. Some can turn them on as easily as turning on water in the bathroom. Some make them weapons of offense and of defense. Others still make them a substitute for action. We used to have a boat on one of our rivers whose engine was so weak that when it whistled it had to stop and get up steam. There are those whose tears are like that. Then there are others whose tears are so meaningful that they become liquid prayers.

We thank Thee, Father, that when we read in Thy Word, "I have seen thy tears," we can be sure that Thou art moved by our sorrow.

Amen.

THE NEAREST DUTY
Job 17:1-16

"Like one who bids his friends to a feast and lets his children starve." (Moffatt) To bid one's friends to a feast might be a worthy gesture, but if such a one starves his children by so doing, it is altogether unworthy. I am thinking now of a mother who became so busy looking after her city that she left her own children to the mercies of the street.

Save us, Lord, from becoming so absorbed in the distant that we neglect the duty that is within our very doors.

Amen.

THE NEAREST DUTY
Job 17:1-16

"Like one who bids his friends to a feast and lets his children starve." (Moffatt) To bid one's friends to a feast might be a worthy gesture, but if such a one starves his children by so doing, it is altogether unworthy. I am thinking now of a mother who became so busy looking after her city that she left her own children to the mercies of the street.

Save us, Lord, from becoming so absorbed in the distant that we neglect the duty that is within our very doors.

Amen.

A BRIEF TRIUMPH
Job 20: 1-10

"The triumph of the wicked is short." Job's friends said some foolish words, but this one is very wise. Wrong does triumph again and again. But its victory is always temporary. Hitler swept everything before him for a while, but only for a while. His is the story of all the despots that ever "waded through slaughter to a throne and shut the gates of mercy on mankind." Even Annas, Caiaphas and Pilate triumphed for a while. Christ was done to death and His body was laid in a tomb. But again the triumph of the wicked was short for soon this crucified Christ was alive forevermore.

We thank Thee, Father, that the final
victory is always with Thee.

Amen.

11
A 37
"for a season"

A BRIEF TRIUMPH
Job 20: 1-10

"The triumph of the wicked is short." Job's friends said some foolish words, but this one is very wise. Wrong does triumph again and again. But its victory is always temporary. Hitler swept everything before him for a while, but only for a while. His is the story of all the despots that ever "waded through slaughter to a throne and shut the gates of mercy on mankind." Even Annas, Caiaphas and Pilate triumphed for a while. Christ was done to death and His body was laid in a tomb. But again the triumph of the wicked was short for soon this crucified Christ was alive forevermore.

We thank Thee, Father, that the final
victory is always with Thee.

Amen.

WHY PRAY?
Job 21: 1-15

12
"What profit should we have, if we pray unto Him?" What is the good of prayer? It is surely not a means of tugging at God till he gives up His will for ours. That He will never do. True prayer will bring many fine results, but of all these, this is the most rewarding: Prayer will make God real to the one who prays.

Lord, save us from cheating ourselves
and others by our failure to pray.

Amen.

WHY PRAY?
Job 21: 1-15

"What profit should we have, if we pray unto Him?" What is the good of prayer? It is surely not a means of tugging at God till he gives up His will for ours. That He will never do. True prayer will bring many fine results, but of all these, this is the most rewarding: Prayer will make God real to the one who prays.

Lord, save us from cheating ourselves
and others by our failure to pray.

Amen.

A CRY OF THE HEART

Job 25:1-10

13 "Oh, that I knew where I might find Him." Here is a cry that is universal. It was uttered long before it became articulate upon the lips of Job. It is as old as man. It is a longing that is the very mother of religion. Philip expressed it in these words, "Lord, show us the Father and it is enough." In fact, as universal as is our hunger for bread, even so universal is our hunger for God. Truly God made us for Himself.

We thank Thee, Lord, that if we are willing to do Thy will we shall come to know Thee.

Amen.

what is back of it? God's quest for me - "The Eyes of David"

A CRY OF THE HEART

Job 25:1-10

"Oh, that I knew where I might find Him." Here is a cry that is universal. It was uttered long before it became articulate upon the lips of Job. It is as old as man. It is a longing that is the very mother of religion. Philip expressed it in these words, "Lord, show us the Father and it is enough." In fact, as universal as is our hunger for bread, even so universal is our hunger for God. Truly God made us for Himself.

We thank Thee, Lord, that if we are
willing to do Thy will we shall come
to know Thee.

Amen.

USING YOUR HEAD
Job 28:20-28

"Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom."

Therefore to refuse to fear God is not simply wicked but silly. When I bought a new car years ago, I received with it a booklet telling me how to treat that car in order to get the best from it. Therefore, I did not look upon this booklet as a kill-joy but as a friendly guide to greater enjoyment. There is a guide-book that we call the Bible that tells how we were meant to work.

We thank Thee, Lord, that to fear
Thee is to be supremely wise.

Amen.

USING YOUR HEAD
Job 28:20-28

"Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom."

Therefore to refuse to fear God is not simply wicked but silly. When I bought a new car years ago, I received with it a booklet telling me how to treat that car in order to get the best from it. Therefore, I did not look upon this booklet as a kill-joy but as a friendly guide to greater enjoyment. There is a guide-book that we call the Bible that tells how we were meant to work.

We thank Thee, Lord, that to fear
Thee is to be supremely wise.

Amen.

BURNT OUT
Job 31:1-12

"It is a fire that consumeth to destruction." Here is Moffatt's translation: "It is a fire that burns life to a cinder." The author is here speaking of a particular sin, that of unchastity. But what is true of this particular sin is in a profound sense true of all sin. In the very nature of things sin is self-destruction. But while it destroys itself, it destroys the sinner also.

Grant us, Jesus Master, so to share
Thy nature that we shall also share Thy
holy hatred of sin.

Amen.

BURNT OUT
Job 31:1-12

"It is a fire that consumeth to destruction." Here is Moffatt's translation: "It is a fire that burns life to a cinder." The author is here speaking of a particular sin, that of unchastity. But what is true of this particular sin is in a profound sense true of all sin. In the very nature of things sin is self-destruction. But while it destroys itself, it destroys the sinner also.

Grant us, Jesus Master, so to share
Thy nature that we shall also share Thy
holy hatred of sin.

Amen.

THE BASIS OF BROTHERHOOD
Job 31:13-22

"Did not my Maker make my servant too?" (Moffatt)

Certainly. That being the case, I cannot wrong him without wronging the God who made and loves us both. I cannot call him common without reflecting on our common Father. This week a father told me with tearful appreciation how his wounded son was saved on the field of battle by a Jew. That Jew now has a warm place in that father's heart because of kindness to his son. God also appreciates kindness shown to His Children.

Help us, Lord, to see in every man a
brother for whom Christ died.

Amen.

THE BASIS OF BROTHERHOOD
Job 31:13-22

"Did not my Maker make my servant too?" (Moffatt)

Certainly. That being the case, I cannot wrong him without wronging the God who made and loves us both. I cannot call him common without reflecting on our common Father. This week a father told me with tearful appreciation how his wounded son was saved on the field of battle by a Jew. That Jew now has a warm place in that father's heart because of kindness to his son. God also appreciates kindness shown to His Children.

Help us, Lord, to see in every man a
brother for whom Christ died.

Amen.

FEARING THE CROWD
Job 31:29-36

15
"If ever I kept quiet within doors, afraid of what
the crowd would say." (Moffatt) That is a fear that
has slain its thousands. Herod murdered John the
Baptist largely because he was afraid of the crowd.

Give us the courage, Lord, to dress our
lives by our own mirrors instead of that
held up to us by the crowd.

Amen.

File

FEARING THE CROWD
Job 31:29-36

"If ever I kept quiet within doors, afraid of what the crowd would say." (Moffatt) That is a fear that has slain its thousands. Herod murdered John the Baptist largely because he was afraid of the crowd.

Give us the courage, Lord, to dress our lives by our own mirrors instead of that held up to us by the crowd.

Amen.

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER
Job 34: 31-37

"Are you to choose the terms, not God?" (Moffatt)

How many seek to be saved on their own terms! Years ago when my first born was a small boy he, for some reason, became offended at his father. He gave expression to his indignation by crumbling the cake he was eating upon the floor. I told him to pick it up. His reply was that he would be a good boy. In fact, he was ready to do almost anything except pick up the cake. But that was the one matter that was the issue between us. What is God seeking from us? Not our work or gifts, primarily, but ourselves.

Teach us, Lord, that to obey is better than
sacrifice.

Amen.

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER
Job 34: 31-37

"Are you to choose the terms, not God?" (Moffatt)

How many seek to be saved on their own terms! Years ago when my first born was a small boy he, for some reason, became offended at his father. He gave expression to his indignation by crumbling the cake he was eating upon the floor. I told him to pick it up. His reply was that he would be a good boy. In fact, he was ready to do almost anything except pick up the cake. But that was the one matter that was the issue between us. What is God seeking from us? Not our work or gifts, primarily, but ourselves.

Teach us, Lord, that to obey is better than
sacrifice.

Amen.

PREFERRING A SIN TO SUFFERING
Job 36: 15-21

"Take heed, regard not iniquity: for this hast thou chosen rather than affliction." Here is Moffatt's translation. "Beward, banish all evil thoughts-- you prefer sin to suffering." That was the choice of the lesser revolutionary who died beside Jesus. Therefore he prayed this prayer--"Save thysel and us." That is, "I don't mind being what I am, I only dread being where I am." But the greater revolutionary preferred suffering to sin, therefore he prayed not for exemption but for remembrance: "Jesus, remember me when thou comest in Thy Kingdom." His supreme hatred was not in being where he was, but in being what he was.

Lord, so strengthen us we pray Thee, that we shall be glad to suffer rather than to fail Thee.

Amen.

PREFERRING A SIN TO SUFFERING
Job 36: 15-21

"Take heed, regard not iniquity; for this hast thou chosen rather than affliction." Here is Moffatt's translation. "Beward, banish all evil thoughts-- you prefer sin to suffering." That was the choice of the lesser revolutionary who died beside Jesus. Therefore he prayed this prayer—"Save thyself and us." That is, "I don't mind being what I am, I only dread being where I am." But the greater revolutionary preferred suffering to sin, therefore he prayed not for exemption but for remembrance: "Jesus, remember me when thou comest in Thy Kingdom." His supreme hatred was not in being where he was, but in being what he was.

Lord, so strengthen us we pray Thee, that
we shall be glad to suffer rather than to
fail Thee.

Amen.

A CLOUD OF WORDS

Job 38: 1-15

"Who darkens my design with a cloud of thoughtless words?" (Moffatt) There are words that dispel the mists of the mind. They bring light like a sunrise. But there are other words that mystify and bewilder and drug with sleep. A recent speaker urged the youth of our city, in the longest words possible, to come to grips with the universe. It is my opinion that no youthful listener could fathom his address not because it was so deep, but because it was so muddy. Blessed is the speaker, the entrance of whose words giveth light.

We pray Thee, Lord, to save us who teach
and preach from darkening Thy counsel by
words. Amen.

A CLOUD OF WORDS

Job 38: 1-15

"Who darkens my design with a cloud of thoughtless words?" (Moffatt) There are words that dispel the mists of the mind. They bring light like a sunrise. But there are other words that mystify and bewilder and drug with sleep. A recent speaker urged the youth of our city, in the longest words possible, to come to grips with the universe. It is my opinion that no youthful listener could fathom his address not because it was so deep, but because it was so muddy. Blessed is the speaker, the entrance of whose words giveth light.

We pray Thee, Lord, to save us who teach
and preach from darkening Thy counsel by
words. Amen.

THE FATHER OF THE RAIN

Job 38: 28-41

"Has the rain a father?" Indeed it has. Of course, the rain comes by natural law, but that natural law is only God's way of working. Now if the father of the rain is also our Father, I for one would not think it silly to ask Him for rain under proper conditions. I think this privilege is guaranteed to us by that petition taught us by our Lord Himself, "Give us this day our daily bread." In many instances He can only do that by answering our prayer for rain. "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory."

Lord, help us to realize in all our relationships our utter dependence upon Thee. Amen.

THE FATHER OF THE RAIN

Job 38: 28-41

"Has the rain a father?" Indeed it has. Of course, the rain comes by natural law, but that natural law is only God's way of working. Now if the father of the rain is also our Father, I for one would not think it silly to ask Him for rain under proper conditions. I think this privilege is guaranteed to us by that petition taught us by our Lord Himself, "Give us this day our daily bread." In many instances He can only do that by answering our prayer for rain. "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory."

Lord, help us to realize in all our relationships our utter dependence upon Thee. Amen.

CONDEMNING GOD

Job 40: 1-8

"Wilt thou condemn me that thou mayest be righteous?"
The answer is that too often we do just that. When I am guilty of wrongdoing, or when I fail in right doing, if I justify myself, if I declare that I am not to blame, I thereby condemn God. He has commanded me to do the opposite. If I am not wrong, then God is. For this reason, our excuses for our shoddy lives only add insult to injury by blaming God when always the fault is our very own. But, "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive... and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Grant us, Lord, to realize our
guilt that we may claim Thy
pardon. Amen.

CONDEMNING GOD

Job 40: 1-8

"Wilt thou condemn me that thou mayest be righteous?"

The answer is that too often we do just that. When I am guilty of wrongdoing, or when I fail in right doing, if I justify myself, if I declare that I am not to blame, I thereby condemn God. He has commanded me to do the opposite. If I am not wrong, then God is. For this reason, our excuses for our shoddy lives only add insult to injury by blaming God when always the fault is our very own. But, "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive... and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Grant us, Lord, to realize our
guilt that we may claim Thy
pardon. Amen.

A SENSE OF SIN

Job 42: 1-7

"Wherefore I abhor myself." This word belongs largely to another age. We are not greatly worried about our decent little sins. Lady Macbeth, scrubbing at her hands, would leave the modern audience cold. Of course, we still confess our sins, but those confessions do not often burst from us wet with tears and red with shame. What is the matter? Many factors enter in, but the supreme is a lost sense of God. Given a vivid sense of God, there is always a deep sense of sin. This accounts for the fact that the most poignant confessions of sin come, not from the lips of the greatest sinners, but from those of the greatest saints.

18

We pray Thee, Lord, for a transforming
vision of Thyself. Amen.

A SENSE OF SIN

Job 42: 1-7

"Wherefore I abhor myself." This word belongs largely to another age. We are not greatly worried about our decent little sins. Lady Macbeth, scrubbing at her hands, would leave the modern audience cold. Of course, we still confess our sins, but these confessions do not often burst from us wet with tears and red with shame. What is the matter? Many factors enter in, but the supreme is a lost sense of God. Given a vivid sense of God, there is always a deep sense of sin. This accounts for the fact that the most poignant confessions of sin come, not from the lips of the greatest sinners, but from those of the greatest saints.

We pray Thee, Lord, for a transforming
vision of Thyself. Amen.