



**INTRODUCTION (JOB 23:1-4, 8-10):** Job is experiencing the fellowship of Christ's sufferings. He is being falsely accused while suffering. Job's friends can't put a finger on what Job has done wrong, so they start speculating (22:6-9).

Eliphaz then brings his sermon to an evangelistic invitation (22:21). "Acquaint" means to submit as a servant. "Be at peace" means to make restitution."

If we come back to God, he will begin the work of rebuilding our lives. That's a great principle (22:23). But we all have seen exceptions to the rule.

Eliphaz makes some very untrue statements that will lead us into our message.

(22:3) He's saying that it doesn't matter what Job does; God isn't interested in Job.

*1 Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."*

(22:12) He is accusing Job of hiding from God; that Job's attitude is that God can't see his sin. The truth is that Job wasn't running from God; He was desperately trying to run to God (23:3-4, 8-9).

## I. THE PATHWAY TO THE FURNACE (23:10) "he knoweth the way that I take. . ."

Notice the words "he" and "I". Job is involved in something personal that is just between him and God.

### A. HUMAN EXPERIENCE: THE WAY I TAKE

*Psalms 1:6, "For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."*

The picture here is that you and I are on a road and are on a journey.

Job was admitting that he didn't know what was ahead on this pathway of life. In verses 8-9 Job says that he doesn't know where the Lord is. But in verse 10 he says, "Praise the Lord, God knows where Job is."

### B. DIVINE OMNISCIENCE: HE KNOWETH

Included in God's knowledge is His foreknowledge.

*"Did it ever occur to you that nothing ever occurred to God?" – Curtis Hutson*

The word "way" is compared to a road, but it is also used in another way:

*Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

This means to train a child up in his own unique pattern according to his own divinely unique personality. Job is saying that God knows his personality.

## II. THE PROCESS IN THE FURNACE (23:10) ". . . when he hath tried me. . ."

This pictures the gold-smith placing the gold ore in a small, portable furnace known as a fining pot. Then he would heat the gold in the furnace, the gold would turn to liquid and the dross, or impurities, would begin to separate and rise to the top. He would then take a skimmer and remove the dross.

### A. THE FURNACE: THE PLACE OF REFINEMENT

*Proverbs 17:3, "The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts."*

*1 Peter 4:12, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."*

*Isaiah 48:10, "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction."*

The word **affliction** means misery, depression or trouble.

### B. THE FIRE: THE TOOL OF REFINEMENT

## III. THE PURPOSE BEYOND THE FURNACE (23:10) "I shall come forth as gold."

### A. TO REMOVE OUR FAULTS

### B. TO REFINE OUR FAITH

*1 Peter 1:6-7, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"*

When King Jesus comes He wants us to be an ornament used to adorn Him.

### C. TO REFLECT HIS FACE