

Job 19:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I called my servant, and he gave me no answer; I intreated him with my mouth.

Analysis

Job's servant ignores him: 'I called my servant, and he gave me no answer; I intreated him with my mouth.' The role reversal escalates—Job entreats his own servant who won't answer. Ancient masters commanded; Job must plead. This humiliation demonstrates suffering's comprehensive nature—it doesn't just cause pain but inverts all normal relationships. Yet this prepares Job for entreating God, where the posture of supplicant is appropriate.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern masters held absolute authority over servants. For a servant to refuse response would be shocking insubordination, typically punishable. That Job can only entreat, not command, shows his complete loss of authority and status.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does humiliation prepare us to approach God appropriately as supplicants?
2. What distinguishes unhealthy humiliation from healthy humility before God?
3. How does Christ's voluntary humiliation transform our experience of being humbled by circumstances?

Interlinear Text

לִבְדֵּךְ כִּי־בְּמֹעֵד
my servant I called and he gave me no answer him with my mouth

לֹא־יָעַנְתָּהּ בְּמֹעֵד
H5650 H7121 H3808 H6030 H1119 H6310

אֶתְּמַנֵּן
I intreated H2603 H0

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org