

Job 29:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

Analysis

I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame—Job employs vivid metaphorical language for comprehensive care of the disabled. Einayim (עֵינִים, eyes) represents guidance and direction; Job became the sight for those who couldn't see. Raglayim (רְגִלִּים, feet) symbolizes mobility and agency; Job enabled the lame to accomplish what their disability prevented. This metaphor goes beyond mere charity—Job became the missing faculties themselves, personally substituting for their disabilities.

The language anticipates messianic prophecy. Isaiah 35:5-6 promises: 'Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart.' Jesus applied this language to His ministry (Luke 7:22, Matthew 11:5), literally healing blind and lame while spiritually opening eyes and enabling the spiritually crippled to walk. Job's metaphorical service to the disabled foreshadows Christ's literal healing ministry. The verse also echoes Paul's body-of-Christ theology where members supply what others lack (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Job embodied Christ-like service centuries before the incarnation, demonstrating that God's character has always demanded compassionate justice.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern societies offered little systematic support for persons with disabilities. The blind and lame faced severe economic hardship, often reduced to begging (Mark 10:46). Mosaic law prohibited cursing the deaf or putting stumbling

blocks before the blind (Leviticus 19:14), showing divine concern for the vulnerable. Job's active service to the disabled went far beyond mere non-exploitation—he personally compensated for their limitations. This radical compassion distinguished Job from contemporaries and demonstrated why God called him 'perfect and upright' (Job 1:8).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you actively serve those whose disabilities or limitations prevent them from helping themselves?
2. In what ways does Job's example challenge us to move beyond non-harm to active compensation for others' vulnerabilities?
3. How does Job's metaphorical service to the blind and lame point forward to Christ's ministry and the church's calling?

Interlinear Text

אָנָּיִם	לְפָנֶיךָ	וְכָלִים	לְעֵינֶיךָ	רַבְּתָנִים	בְּעֵינֶיךָ	אָנָּיִם	
I was eyes	H1961	to the blind	H5787	and feet	H7272	was I to the lame	H6455
H5869						H589	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 10:31 (Parallel theme): And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes.

Matthew 11:5 (Parallel theme): The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

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