

Job

Ten cool verses

Verse 4

Job 7:9-10

***“As a cloud vanishes and is gone, so one who goes down to the grave does not return.
10 He will never come to his house again; his place will know him no more.”***

This is an ominous statement. I picked it because it's real. We are here then were gone. Someone said “so there is no reincarnation?” I don't view the verse above like that. It's more about we are nothing in the immensity of time. Here today, gone tomorrow. That sounds so sad. It is sad. Yet, there is more. What will you do with what you have now? How will you treat others? Will you give up or try for success? Why? It's because there is only today. Tomorrow never comes.

My mom has been gone for over a year. We never talked much for the past 13 years. She has not existed in my life for a very long time. Forgotten? Oh no, but I can't fix it anymore, she is gone. Is her life now meaningless? Is she just gone? I suppose it's yes and no. Yes, she cannot be here. It's also no, the good and bad memories live in the hearts of those she knew. We still think about her so it's not meaningless.

There is another side to these verses. Do we live and just vanish? Job is asking God if that's all there is. Do we live, get punished, and die? He even asks where God is in all this mess. Is it a pity party? I suppose so. Maybe Job wished he had done more. Maybe he had regrets. There is a parable by Jesus that tells of three men given bags of gold. It says they were given by their ability. That's it. Jesus was pointing out that we are given the right amount based on what we can handle. Is Job criticizing God?

A legacy is an interesting thing. In a way it haunts me. Who are my children? What have I done so far? Has my life been useless? There is another story of a man in Australia who gave out religious tracts on the street corner year after year. He had told a friend that not one person has come to the Lord through him. His ministry was a failure. Upon his death hundreds of people showed up to pay their respects. Nothing is ever what it seems.

Finally, we are never gone if we lead a good life. Someone will notice. Plus, we don't really know the impact we have had. Appreciate what your ability is. God will hold you accountable for what he gave you. In some ways I think Job kept account of his life. He kept record of his good deeds in his pocket for a time such as this. To tell God he was good. To tell God that he did it right. Somehow, I'm not so sure Job got it. Maybe he was so busy praising himself that he forgot to use everything wisely. Then time seemed to run out.