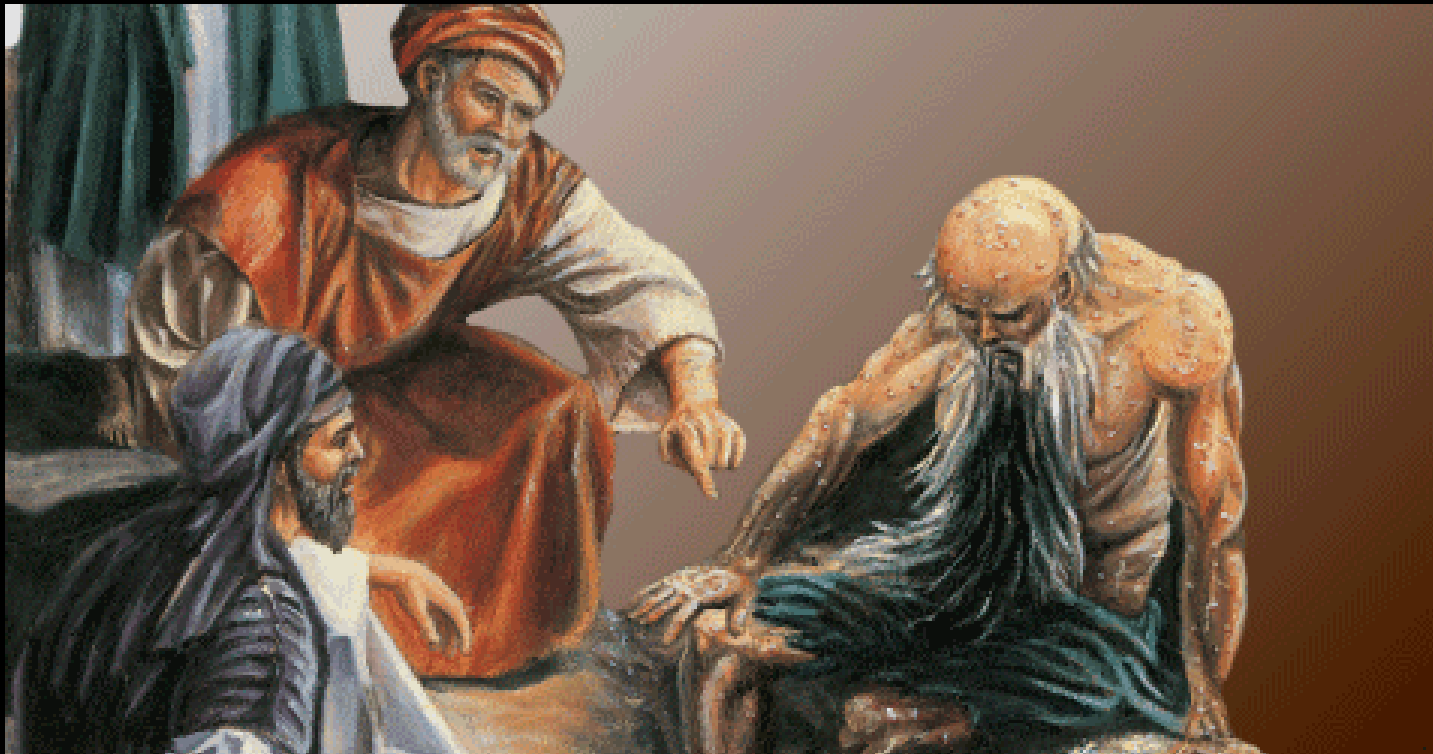
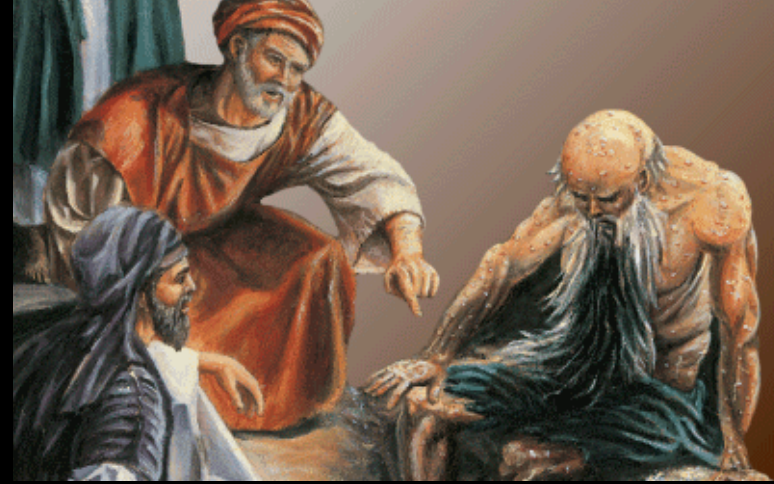


ARGUING REVEALS AND INCREASES PRIDE



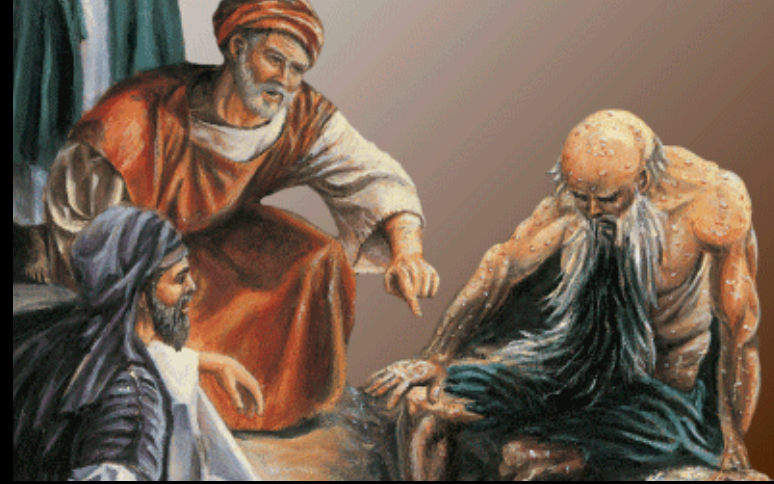
JOB 27:2-6

I. Job, the most righteous man on earth, maintained his integrity (Job 2:3).



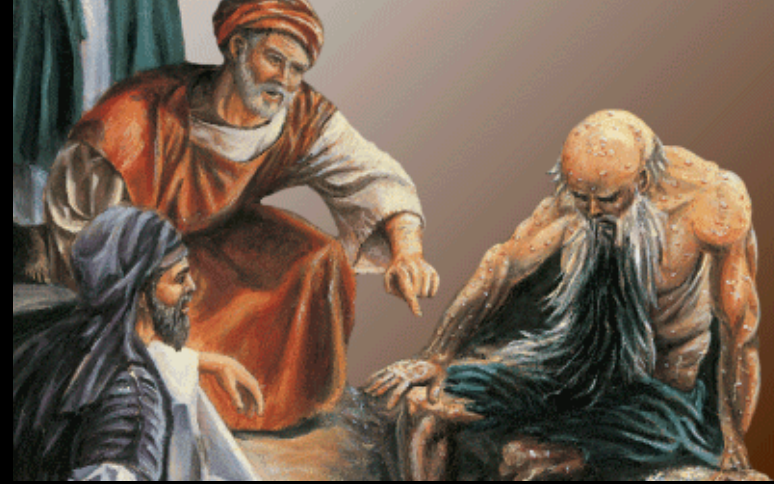
- **Why is it a good thing for us to maintain our integrity?**
- **What is the danger of focusing too much on maintaining our integrity? (27:5-6)**

II. Job's three friends argued that he was being punished for his sin (11:14-15).



- **Why would they stoop to inventing sins for Job (22:5-11)?**
- **What was wrong with the logic of Job's three friends?**

III. As Job continues arguing, his pride is revealed and it increases (6:29).



- How can we see the gradual increase of Job's pride?

(6:29; 23:4,10-12; 27:5-6; 29:11-17; 31:5-6, 35-37; 32:1-2)

- Please turn; let no injustice be done.
Turn now; my vindication is at stake. (6:29)
- Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat!
- I would lay my case before him
and fill my mouth with arguments. (23:3-4)
- But he knows the way that I take;
- when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.
- My foot has held fast to his steps;
I have kept his way and have not turned aside.
- I have not departed from the commandment of his lips;
- I have treasured the words of his mouth more
than my portion of food. (23:10-12)

- Far be it from me to say that you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

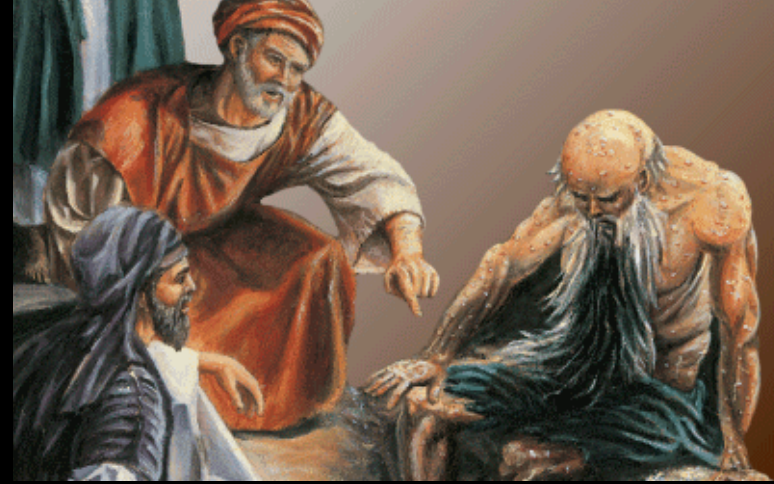
I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go;
my heart does not reproach me for any of my days. **(27:5-6)**

- Let's read **29:11-17**

- "If I have walked with falsehood and my foot has hastened to deceit;
(Let me be weighed in a just balance, and let God know my integrity!) **(31:5-6)**

- Oh, that I had one to hear me!
(Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!)
Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary!
- Surely I would carry it on my shoulder;
I would bind it on me as a crown;
- I would give him an account of all my steps;
like a prince I would approach him. (31:35-37)
- So these three men ceased to answer Job,
because he was righteous in his own eyes.
Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of
the family of Ram, burned with anger. He
burned with anger at Job because he justified
himself rather than God. (32:1-2)

III. As Job continues arguing, his pride is revealed and it increases (6:29).



- How can we see the gradual increase of Job's pride?

(6:29; 23:4,10-12; 27:5-6; 29:11-17; 31:5-6, 35-37; 32:1-2)

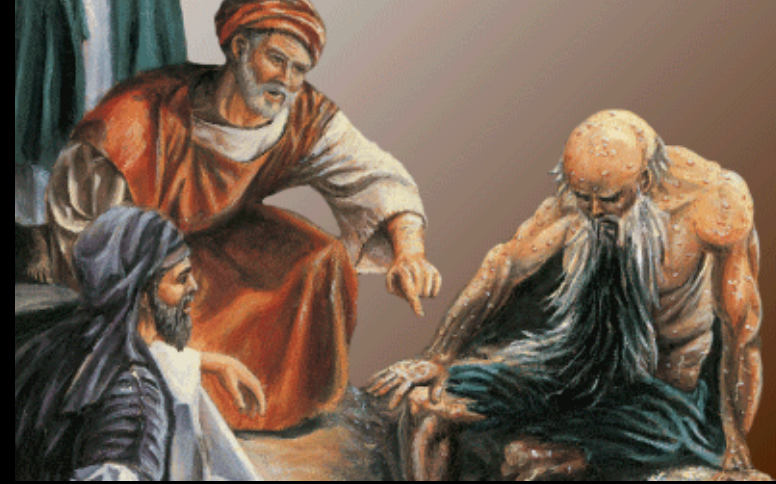
- What lessons should we learn as we see this progression?

IV. The arguing moves Job to focus more and more on himself (27:2-6).



- How do Job's words (27:2-6; 29:11-17) sound like the rich fool (Luke 12:16-19)?
- What good reasons do we have for avoiding arguing (Philippians 2:14)?

V. Eventually, Job's pride dishonors God (31:35-37) and must be humbled.



- **Job's pride was visible before this passage, but why is this one so bad?**
- **As faithful Christians, what can we do to keep from being lifted up in pride?**
- **What extra reasons do you have to avoid arguing?**

Call to Action: To humbly walk away from opportunities to argue.



- What are the blessings and dangers of integrity?
- What is it about arguing that reveals pride?
- How can a humble heart resist the challenge of arguing?
- How can an increased awe of God protect us from pride?
- Can you walk away?

-How can we help?