

Hebrews 4:12-16 Contemporary English Version

**12** What God has said isn't only alive and active! It is sharper than any double-edged sword. His word can cut through our spirits and souls and through our joints and marrow, until it discovers the desires and thoughts of our hearts. **13** Nothing is hidden from God! He sees through everything, and we will have to tell him the truth.

**14** We have a great high priest, who has gone into heaven, and he is Jesus the Son of God. That is why we must hold on to what we have said about him. **15** Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin! **16** So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help.

Job 23:1-9 & 16-17 — Contemporary English Version

Job's Reply to Eliphaz

**23** Job said:

2 Today I complain bitterly, because God has been cruel and made me suffer.

3 If I knew where to find God, I would go there

4 and argue my case.

5 Then I would discover what he wanted to say.

6 Would he overwhelm me with his greatness? No! He would listen

7 because I am innocent, and he would say, "I now set you free!"

8 I cannot find God anywhere—in front or back of me,

9 to my left or my right. God is always at work, though I never see him.

16 makes me tremble with fear.

17 God has covered me with darkness, but I refuse to be silent.

**17** As Jesus was walking down a road, a man ran up to him. He knelt down, and asked, “Good teacher, what can I do to have eternal life?”

**18** Jesus replied, “Why do you call me good? Only God is good. **19** You know the commandments. ‘Do not murder. Be faithful in marriage. Do not steal. Do not tell lies about others. Do not cheat. Respect your father and mother.’”

**20** The man answered, “Teacher, I have obeyed all these commandments since I was a young man.”

**21** Jesus looked closely at the man. He liked him and said, “There’s one thing you still need to do. Go sell everything you own. Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come with me.”

**22** When the man heard Jesus say this, he went away gloomy and sad because he was very rich.

**23** Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “It’s hard for rich people to get into God’s kingdom!” **24** The disciples were shocked to hear this.

So Jesus told them again, “It’s terribly hard[a] to get into God’s kingdom! **25** In fact, it’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God’s kingdom.”

**26** Jesus’ disciples were even more amazed. They asked each other, “How can anyone ever be saved?”

**27** Jesus looked at them and said, “There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything.”

**28** Peter replied, “Remember, we left everything to be your followers!”

**29** Jesus told him:

You can be sure that anyone who gives up home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or land for me and for the good news **30** will be rewarded. In this world they will be given a hundred times as many houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and pieces of land, though they will also be mistreated. And in the world to come, they will have eternal life. **31** But many who are now first will be last, and many who are now last will be first.