"Surprising Mercy"
Job 42:1-9
December 7, 2025

I. A Simple Summary of Job 42:1-9

A. Job declares that God is both sovereign and right (Dan. 4:35); Job repents in ashes for his sinful words towards God. (vs. 1-6)

B. God vindicates Job before his friends by saying Job had spoken rightly of Him while they had not.

II. A Not So Simple Vindication

A. Why did God so quickly and thoroughly vindicate Job after all the horrible things Job had said? Three possible solutions exist:

1. Option 1 – Job's words were not truly wrong, especially with his sufferings considered. (But why the rebuke or Job's repentance?)

2. Option 2 – When God said Job had spoken rightly about Him, He was referring to Job's repentance in 42:1-6. (Just that, though?)

3. Option 3 – Over chapters 3-31, Job sincerely said *some* true things *to* God and *about* God, while the friends only spoke in insincere and false abstractions.

B. The best option likely a mix of Options 2 & 3, with an emphasis on Job's repentance and the friends' initial lack of it.

C. Still, God's merciful vindication of Job remains surprising – and this is the point!

III. A Future Sacrifice and Intercessor

A. The friends' sacrifices and Job's intercessions for them were a prophetic anticipation of Christ and His work.

B. Jesus' perfect self-sacrifice and ongoing intercession secured *Job's* forgiveness and vindication, in advance, and secures *ours* today.