



Teaching Boethius with Josh Gibbs

Lesson 2: Boethius Addresses the Evil in His Own Heart

Outline:

Book 2, Chapter 1

Lady Philosophy discusses the nature of Fortune in order to show Boethius that he has lost nothing of value.

- Change is Fortune's true nature, so by his fortunes changing, Fortune has remained, indeed, unchanged.
- Fortune governs all forms of material and intellectual happiness.
- All things governed by Fortune are destined to pass away (money, popularity, reputation, attractiveness, power, health, etc.).
- VIRTUE is the one thing that Fortune cannot govern (faith, hope, love, wisdom, justice, courage, temperance, gratitude, etc.). Virtue governs the way man *responds* to Fortune.
- Those with much to lose materially will suffer most at the hand of Fortune; those who have nothing will suffer little at her hand.

Book 2, Chapters 2-3

Lady Philosophy speaks (often as though she is Fortune herself) especially concerning wealth and the confidence Boethius has in material possessions.

- Argues that Boethius' only true possessions are his soul and virtue.
- Humans tend to transfer the glory and an object to the possessor of it.
- Contemplation of death is a significant source of virtue.

Book 2, Chapters 4-6

Lady Philosophy will expound on the idea that "health of the mind is the health of the whole man."