

Job 3: 1- 26 A friend of God

Verse 26 I have no peace, no quietness: I have no rest, but only turmoil.

1) Job curses the day of his birth Verses 1 – 10

- Job speaks to himself.
- If I hadn't been born I would have been spared this pain
- So different from the birthday celebrations for his sons
- Verse 8 'May those who curse days curse that day, those who are ready to rouse leviathan'
- The pain of his loss impacts even the best of days.

2) Job's lament 11 - 19

- The pain of his loss is all consuming
- I would be asleep and at rest v13, 17, 26
- Suffering is exhausting. No rest, no peace, no distraction works

3) Job's question 20 - 26

- Why is life given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in? v 23
- Fear and dread were feelings Job had before his loss. 1:5
- Men and women are unable to discern blessing or curse. The woodcutter's wisdom.
- Job's integrity – he cries out in curse, lament and question to His God who remains silent.

Job 1 – 3

- A. God is sovereign over suffering in a way we struggle to understand.
- B. God does not hold it against us when in our suffering we cry out and express our feelings to him
- C. Worship with integrity. Worship includes trusting God in situations when we do not know why certain things are happening.

Digging Deeper

1. Read Psalm 88 – What similarities are there between this Psalm and Job 3?
2. How does a chapter like Psalm 88 or Job 3 make you feel? What value do these dark parts of scripture have?
3. Have you experienced like Job “I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil?
4. What did you learn that could provide guidance as to how to come alongside somebody who is suffering?
5. What has stood out for you in the first three chapters of Job?
6. What do you find difficult to grasp?
7. If integrity is at the heart of worship – how do we grown integrity into our daily living?

Digging Deeper

1. Ask one member of the group to download the Woodcutter's Wisdom story and read it out in the group. In what way does this help us as we explore the book of Job?
2. What has been your experience of grief and what did you find helped and what didn't?
3. Read Job 7:3 – It would seem that Job had quite a long time before the friends arrived. What has Job lost and what is the impact on him and his wife?
4. Why do the three friends agree to meet up and go together to visit Job?
5. What is it like to come alongside someone who is suffering?
6. Job's experience is unique to him. All suffering and loss is experienced in a unique way by the sufferer so how do we really come along side someone in pain?
7. What are we looking to do when we weep with those who weep?
8. Before Job speaks the friends sit with him. Is their silence good?
9. How do we grow in our ability to come along side those who are hurting?