

Job 4 - 7 What not to say

Eliphaz the Temanite – A wise and caring man

1) The friends find their voice

- Job – be consistent 4: 1 – 11:
 - i. You used to help others
 - ii. We share the same understanding of how the world works
- Job – Be realistic 4: 12 – 5:7
 - i. A vision in the night – A supernatural message
 - ii. Can mortal man be in the right before God? Can a man be pure before his maker? V17
 - iii. There is no way that human beings can stand before God
 - iv. There is trouble in the world Job, don't get so worked up.
- Job – Be humble 5:8 – 16
 - i. Turn to God Job, Trust him, try not to be too clever
 - ii. Job, we share the same world view, good people win, bad people lose.
- Job – Submit to God's discipline 5:17 - 27
 - i. Hebrews 12: 5 – 7 – Hold on to the hope of a better future, Job!
 - ii. Eliphaz is encouraging Job to trust in the very thing Satan uses against him. Job loves you for what you give, not for who you are.

2) Job's reply to the friends 6 1 – 30

- God's anger is an unbearable pain 6: 1 – 13
- Religion brings no comfort 6: 14 - 30

3) Job's protest to God 7: 1 – 21

- Why do I matter 1 – 10 – I am but a breath, you are eternal
- Leave me alone! 11 – 21 – I feel like God's punch bag
 - i. Job is beginning to be driven towards the need for a redeemer

Job 4 - 14

- A. God's wrath is an unbearable pain
- B. Job's integrity drives him to man's greatest need
- C. Words that are based on a religious system increase the suffering

Digging Deeper

1. Given the pain and hurt we see around us every day why are we surprised when either we or people we know experience undeserved suffering?
2. What did you hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you about during Sunday's message?

Read Job 12: 1 – 13:9

Job brings the first cycle of speeches to a close with this long reply. In this section he makes the following points:

- I. The system is cruel 12: 1 – 6 – I am upright and blameless but everyone is laughing at me
 - II. The system is shallow 12: 7 – 12 – It doesn't fit my experience. It doesn't explain why God has allowed (given me) this suffering
 - III. The system is tame 12: 13 – 25 – Far from being a God of a reliable natural order, he is the god of natural disasters. The system misrepresents God's character
 - IV. The system is deceitful 13: 1- 12 – Verse 4 As for you, you whitewash with lies.
1. In what ways can we allow our knowledge of God to limit our experience of Him?

Read Job 13: 13 – 19

2. Job asks his friends to be silent so he can speak to God. Job recognises this is risky. He wants his friends to listen in to the conversation. Job wants to know God, to wrestle with what seems inconsistent with his experience so far. In what ways do simple answers restrict our relationship with God?

Read Job 13: 20 – 14:22

- I. Job pleads with God to speak with him 13: 20 – 22
 - II. Job recognises that sin is the root problem 13: 23 – 27
 - III. Job feels deeply the pain of mortality 13:28 – 14:12
 - IV. Job longs for resurrection 14: 13 – 22
3. If there is no resurrection there is no hope. In what ways does Job's experience help us to allow people to experience suffering? In what ways did Job benefit from his experience?