

Job 15 - 17 Where is our hope

1) The second cycle of speeches chapters 15 - 21

- Eliphaz is getting annoyed with Job –
 - i. Who do you think you are? 15: 1- 16
 - ii. The wicked find no peace in life 15: 17 - 35

2) Job's reply 16 – 17

- Your words bring no comfort 16: 1- 17
 - i. God attacks me, men attack me
 - ii. The pain is unrelenting and unrelieved by words
 - iii. In my pain I have not turned to sin v15 - 17
- Job puts his hope in heaven 16: 18 – 21
 - i. Even now my witness is in heaven
 - ii. My intercessor is my friend, on behalf of a man he pleads with God as a man pleads for his friend.
- Job's insight struggles to relieve his pain 17: 1 – 16
 - i. Where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me?

3) God is still silent

- God allows Job to struggle with his pain
- Job 19: 23 – 27 'I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.'

Job 15 - 21

- A. The friends fail to listen to Job's heart
- B. God's silence allows Job to search for hope
- C. Resurrection hope (4 – 14) Redeemer hope (15 – 21)

Digging Deeper

1. Have there been times in your life when God has been silent? What was that like and how did you respond?
2. What did you hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you about during Sunday's message?

Read Job 21

Job brings the second cycle of speeches to a close with this reply. He argues that the friends view of the world and how God works in the present is false.

- I. Wicked people are often happy 7 - 16
- II. Wicked people are rarely punished 17 - 26
- III. Wicked people prosper even in death 27 - 33
- IV. Conclusion v34 'It is impossible to judge from someone's situation the true state of their heart'.

1. Who in verses 1 – 6 is Job bringing his complaint to?
2. Job is experiencing the sort of suffering that is due to the wicked. When we look at the suffering around us do we recognise how devastating God's wrath is and what Jesus suffered for us on the cross?
3. Read verses 7 – 16 – In verse 15 Job raises the significant question what profit do we get if we pray to the Almighty? What's in it for me lies at the heart of all man-made religions. How can this philosophy influence our communication of the gospel, steering people to the benefits more than the benefactor?
4. Job's argument is that if we simply observe life in the present we make no room for God. How does his understanding expressed in 16:19 – 20 and 19: 23 – 26 provide for the friends and us an example of how to understand why the wicked often seem to go unpunished.
5. Job has to contend with unjust suffering while the wicked go unpunished. What do 21:v 22 – 26 show us.
6. How could we use Job's observations and reflections on suffering when coming alongside people who don't know Jesus?
7. What have you learnt from Job and Job's friends?