

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAY 2, 2021 // UNWAVERING



Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs continued in the series Unwavering, teaching through the book of Job. When Job was in his greatest pain he was joined by three of his friends who brought advice about his suffering. This became a good lesson in what not to do or say when someone is going through trials and pain. The best, and most helpful, counsel would bring healing. Instead, Job's friends brought words and counsel that cut deeper and rubbed salt in the wounds. They zeroed in on what Job said without understanding how he felt. Job's friends modeled what loosely could be called misguided religious platitudes – making a hard situation harder. Empathy is what is called for when sitting with someone who is experiencing trauma. We have the advantage of living with the model of empathy in Jesus Christ.

"You often hear words coming from a good heart, people with good intentions, but they say the stupidest things." - Kay Warren

SCRIPTURE: VARIOUS

ELIPHAZ RESPONSE: "But now trouble comes to you, and you are discouraged; it strikes you, and you are dismayed. Should not your piety be your confidence and your blameless ways your hope? "Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. At the breath of God they perish; at the blast of his anger they are no more. The lions may roar and growl, yet the teeth of the great lions are broken. The lion perishes for lack of prey, and the cubs of the lioness are scattered." - Job 4:5-11 NIV

BILAD'S RESPONSE: "How long will you say such things? Your words are a blustering wind. Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right? When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin. But if you will seek God earnestly and plead with the Almighty, if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your prosperous state. Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be. "Ask the former generation and find out what their ancestors learned, for we were born only yesterday and know nothing, and our days on earth are but a shadow. Will they not instruct you and tell you? Will they not bring forth words from their understanding? Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh? Can reeds thrive without water? While still growing and uncut, they wither more quickly than grass. Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless. What they trust in is fragile; what they rely on is a spider's web. They lean on the web, but it gives way; they cling to it, but it does not hold. They are like a well-watered plant in the sunshine, spreading its shoots over the garden; it entwines its roots around a pile of rocks and looks for a place among the stones. But when it is torn from its spot, that place disowns it and says, 'I never saw you.' Surely its life withers away, and from the soil other plants grow. - Job 8:2-19 NIV

ZOPHAR'S RESPONSE: "Are all these words to go unanswered? Is this talker to be vindicated? Will your idle talk reduce others to silence? Will no one rebuke you when you mock? You say to God, 'My beliefs are flawless and I am pure in your sight.' Oh, how I wish that God would speak, that he would open his lips against you and

disclose to you the secrets of wisdom, for true wisdom has two sides. Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin. "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens above—what can you do? They are deeper than the depths below—what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea." - Job 11:2-9 NIV

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What new thoughts did you have as you listened to Marty's message?
2. If needed, read Job 3 to understand what Job's friends were responding to. How would you summarize or describe Job's troubles and pain?
3. Read each of the friend's response in Job 4:5-11, 8:2-19 11:2-9. How would you describe each response?
4. Have you experienced this type of counsel during times of hurting or sorrow?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Empathy can be a part of compassion. Have you experienced this response in your own life?
6. Think of those in your life currently facing deep hurt and pain. What would empathy look like for them? (i.e. no Christian platitudes, sitting with)
7. How can we pray for you?

For a simple and helpful way to explain/understand empathy, link to the following short video.

[**BRENE BROWN'S EMPATHY VS. SYMPATHY**](#)

PRAYER

Praise God for being a comforter to those who mourn, and ask him to open your heart to empathetic actions, both receiving and giving. Ask God to silence well-meaning words that in the end can deepen wounds and seek to be compassionate in action and words.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed."

PSALM 34:18 NLT.