

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAY 16, 2021 // UNWAVERING



Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs continued teaching from the book of Job in chapters 20-26. Job's friends, who had an empathetic response earlier and sat with Job in his grief, have returned to "help" him with their advice and counsel. Their religion, or understanding of it, was one based on following laws, and when someone was experiencing hardship, the answer must have been disobedience and punishment from God. This is a very Pharisaic and legalistic point of view. This could be described as Orthodoxy without true godliness, judgmental, rigid, proud. An outward rightness that can lead to an inward wrongness. Job's friends were convinced his problems were a result of his own sin, and wanted to help him understand that and confess what he'd done. Their pride made knowledge and information the goal, and compassion was hard to find. Grace was not mentioned or granted, mercy was withheld, and judgment covered Job and only added to his misery.

His friends have earned descriptive titles over the years:

Zophar the Zealous – There's an answer for everything (Job 21 and 22)

Eliphaz the Elegant – You have hidden motives (Job 22)

Bildad the Brutal – People are maggots, mere worms (Job 25)

SCRIPTURE – JOB VARIOUS

"Then Zophar the Naamathite replied: "I must reply because I am greatly disturbed. I've had to endure your insults, "Don't you realize that from the beginning of time, ever since people were first placed on the earth, the triumph of the wicked has been short lived and the joy of the godless has been only temporary?"

"They enjoyed the sweet taste of wickedness, letting it melt under their tongue. They savored it, holding it long in their mouths. But suddenly the food in their bellies turns sour, a poisonous venom in their stomach. They will vomit the wealth they swallowed. God won't let them keep it down. They will suck the poison of cobras. The viper will kill them. They will never again enjoy streams of olive oil or rivers of milk and honey. They will give back everything they worked for. Their wealth will bring them no joy." -Job 20:1-5,12-17

"Then Job spoke again:"Listen closely to what I am saying. That's one consolation you can give me. Bear with me, and let me speak. After I have spoken, you may resume mocking me. "My complaint is with God, not with people. I have good reason to be so impatient. Look at me and be stunned. Put your hand over your mouth in shock. When I think about what I am saying, I shudder. My body trembles." -Job 21:1-6

"Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied: ... "No, it's because of your wickedness! There's no limit to your sins." "For example, you must have lent money to your friend and demanded clothing as security. Yes, you stripped him to the bone. You must have refused water for the thirsty and food for the hungry. You probably think the land belongs to the powerful and only the privileged have a right to it! You must have sent widows away empty-handed and crushed the hopes of orphans. That is why you are surrounded by traps and tremble from sudden fears. That is why you cannot see in the darkness, and waves of water cover you." -Job 22:1,5-11

"Then Job spoke again: "My complaint today is still a bitter one, and I try hard not to groan aloud. If only I knew where to find God, I would go to his court. I would lay out my case and present my arguments. Then I would listen to his reply. Would he use his great power to argue with me? No, he would give me a fair hearing."
-Job 23:1-6

"Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:"God is powerful and dreadful. He enforces peace in the heavens. Who is able to count his heavenly army? Doesn't his light shine on all the earth? How can a mortal be innocent before God? Can anyone born of a woman be pure? God is more glorious than the moon; he shines brighter than the stars. In comparison, people are maggots; we mortals are mere worms." -Job 25:1-6

"Then Job spoke again:"How you have helped the powerless! How you have saved the weak! How you have enlightened my stupidity! What wise advice you have offered! Where have you gotten all these wise sayings? Whose spirit speaks through you?", both in the past and currently?" -Job 26:1-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out today from Marty's message?

2. Read the conversations between Job and his friends.
 - a. Zophar, Job 20:1-5,12-17, Job 21:1-6
 - b. Eliphaz, Job 22:1,5-11, Job 23:1-6
 - c. Bildad, Job 25:1-6, Job 26:1-4

3. Describe each of Job's friend's explanations for Job's troubles.

4. How does Job defend himself to each one?

5. How have you put God in a box, and misjudged someone, or thought they were being punished for their sin?

6. From Scripture, whose job is it to judge?

7. What is your role as a friend, fellow believer, or stranger?

8. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Ask God to reveal areas you hold onto legalistic religious views. Pray that God will turn any judgment you hold into a compassionate response. Empathy not judgment should always be how you come alongside a friend who is hurting. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to come alongside someone in grace, and if you are struggling, pray he will send someone to sit with you.