

Why Suffering

A walk through Job

The Goals

To have living theology

To be equipped as the Church in
our present crisis

Job's Plight

- Job 1:13-19

¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job's Plight

- Job 1:13-19

¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job's Plight

- Job 1:13-19

¹⁷ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job's Plight

- Job 1:13-19

¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job's Plight ... (continued) - Job 2:7-8

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.

Two Voices in Job

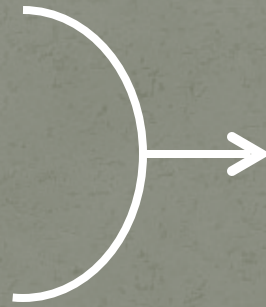
Job's friends

Eliphaz – Job 4:7-9

Bildad – Job 8:3-4

Zophar – Job 11:5-6

Elihu – Job 34:10-12

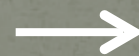


This is justified
punishment

Job's wife

“Do you still hold fast your
integrity? Curse God and die.”

- Job 2:9



God is not
good.

Job's friends

- If you are good, you will get good things
 - God's people will not be harmed by viruses
 - God's people will not be touched by economic woe

- If you are bad, you will get bad things
 - This plague is God's judgment on (pick your sin)

God's response to Job's friends

7 After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."

- Job 42:7

God's statement of Job's character

⁸ And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"

- Job 1:8

Jesus engages with the idea

¹There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

- Luke 13:1-5

Jesus engages with the idea

¹ As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

- John 9:1-3

Affirming the Consequent

1. If... $A \rightarrow$ then B

2. B is true

3. Therefore A

Example

1. If the child is in a coma, they won't call home.
2. Child has not called home.
3. Child is in a coma.

Example

1. God uses plague or disaster as judgment
2. We are experiencing plague or disaster
3. God is judging us

Pendulum Swing Response

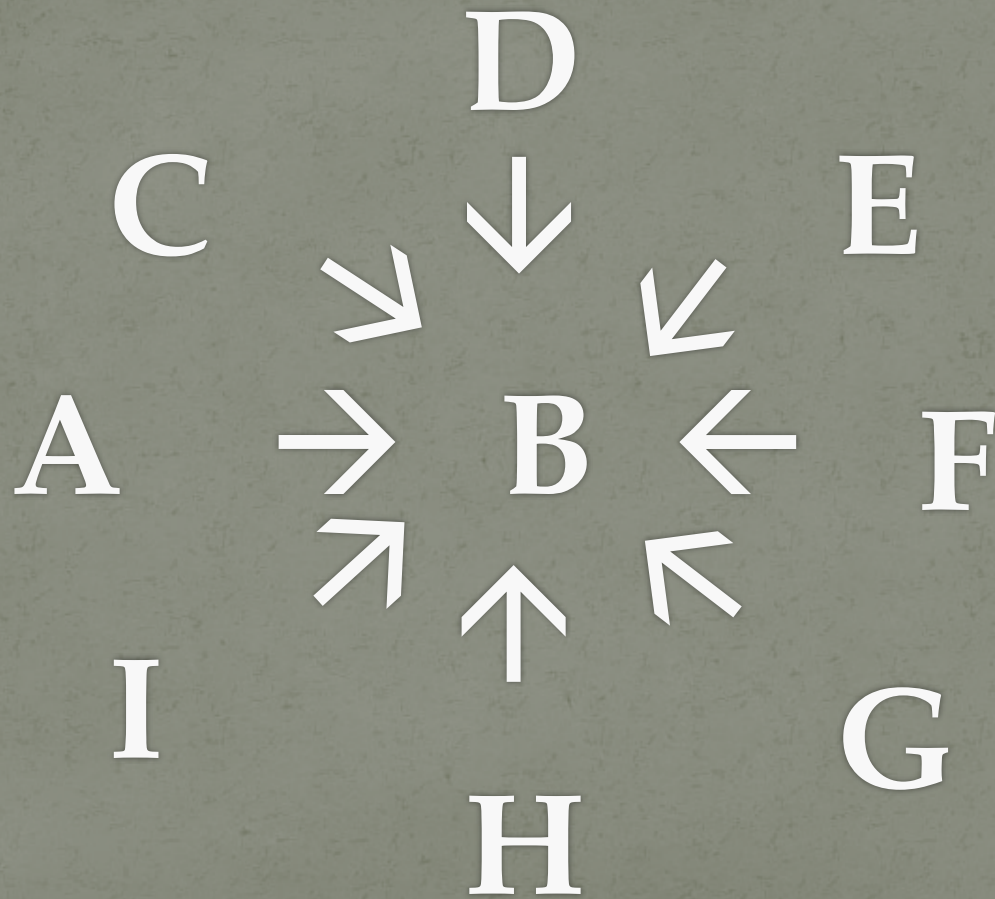
No, no, no

That isn't true

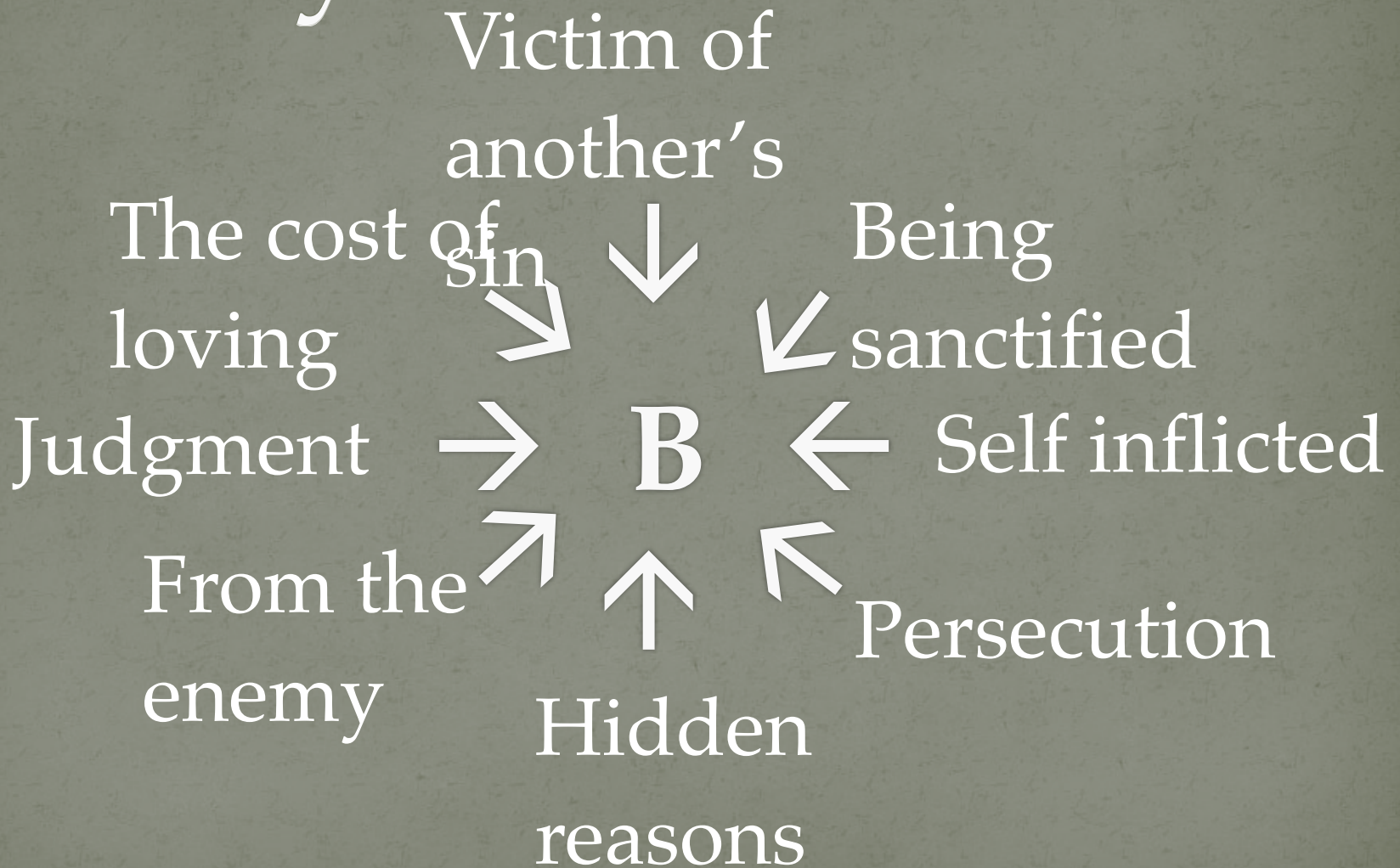
God isn't like that

He doesn't judge us, he loves us

Reality



Reality



What about Job's wife?

What about Job's wife?

⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

- Job 1:9-11

Job's wife's advice is
the Devil's hope.

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

— Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

What is the medicine to help
us not land where the Devil
hopes?

God's love

God's power

God's plan

1. God's love – Gospel
2. God's power – He is able
3. God's plan - Eternity

Challenge

Take advantage of the opportunity to reset your rhythm of life.

- Be intentional about what content you are taking in
- Get creative with your free time, thinking of how to love others

Guard your heart with the Lord

- Play worship music
- List things you are grateful for

Questions

How are you responding to suffering?

Are you looking to justify God? Are you angry?

Are there people in your life that are wrestling with God's goodness through their suffering?

How can you draw them towards our loving God?

Do you wrestle with God's love, power, or plan?

If so, can you think of why you wrestle with it?

How are you using the time right now?